

'Great success' for Customs It is a gun, Ridley tells Commons

By Robin Oakley and Melinda Whitsell

EIGHT Iraq-bound steel tubes impounded at Teesport last week were part of a massive gun, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons yesterday.

"The Government is entirely satisfied that these tubes form part of a gun," he said, congratulating the Customs operation which identified and seized the components of a "large-calibre armament, albeit of a scale outside anything previously experienced".

Mr Ridley insisted that parts already exported could not form a full-sized gun and called the Customs' action "a great success on behalf of this country".

His Commons' statement raised as many questions as it settled, especially about when the Government first knew about the possible nature of the steel order.

The clear implication of Mr Ridley's comments was that the first the Government had known was when Customs seized the steel tubes, but Sir Hil Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, said he had warned the Department of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Defence "and another agency" more than two years ago of the possible nature of the steel order placed with Walter Somers.

The company had offered to withdraw from the contract to go ahead with it and allow it to be monitored, Sir Hil said. He

had rejected the offer a year ago.

Later Sir Hil said on Channel 4's *Seven O'clock News* that he had approached the two ministers on behalf of Walter Somers because the company had been worried that it was being asked to make something military. The company's operations director, a skilled metallurgist, "felt that the work in question was not what it claimed to be".

MPs remained puzzled, too, about who gave the briefing that threw doubt on Customs' reports that the tubes were part of a gun. Mr Gordon Brown, the shadow Secretary of State for Trade who said the "embarrassing episode" had made the Government an "object of ridicule", said Mr Ridley owed Customs an apology for the way they had been subjected to "a week of hostile bashing and off-the-record criticism".

Customs' officials have been in no doubt of the intended use of the tubes they seized from the Gur Mariner, which sailed for Iraq last night, although they believe it will be weeks before they can collect sufficient evidence to consider prosecution.

The Customs and Excise Department has received calls from firms other than those already identified, worried that work in which they have been involved could have been part of the gun project. Last night, Sir Hil said, a firm, "Astra Holdings", confirmed that its Belgian subsidiary had extensive links with Dr Gerald Bull, the man believed to have designed the gun who was murdered in Brussels last month.

Astra said that PRB, the gun-making company it acquired six months ago, had a contract for "unusual types of gun propellant for very large guns", using technical specifications defined by the Advance Technology Institute of Athens, which is known to act as agents for Iraq and to be closely linked with Dr Bull.

The PRB contract, signed in 1988, was not with Iraq. It is understood the gun propellant was destined for Jordan. Astra said it became suspicious about the contract shortly after acquiring PRB and reported the matter to the Government, even though all normal export documentation was in place.

Mr Ridley told the Commons that Walter Somers and Sheffield Forgemasters had

Parliament, page 7
Letters, page 13

McAvoy jeered over rejection of strike

By David Tyler and Douglas Broom

that he never listened to them. Moderates countered with a standing ovation.

Mr McAvoy said the fight for better salaries and protection of jobs would not be won by a national strike at present.

However, the new general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, Mr Doug McAvoy, was jeered by about half the delegates to its annual conference in Bournemouth.

Hard-left members gave him a slow handclap as he vowed to maintain opposition to an illegal strike, and to use strike action only as a last resort. He was frequently interrupted by delegates shouting

NUT conference, page 2
Strike call, page 2

Fears of 'stagflation'

Rising labour costs, coupled with a fall in manufacturing output are fueling fears of stagflation — sharply rising inflation and stagnant growth. Figures show factory production in February just 0.6 per cent up on a year earlier.

A slowdown in the improvement of manufacturing workers' productivity means that the cost in wages per unit of output is rising. — Page 25

Jail defiance

The seven remaining rioters at Strangeways prison continued their mocking contempt of the authorities for the 18th day. They hunkered abuse and mockery and when hoses were aimed at one man he stripped and washed with a bar of soap. The authorities are holding to their policy of negotiation and pressure. — Page 3

Show goes on

The Royal Opera House has budgeted for a £2 million deficit in the current year but will stage one of its most ambitious programmes in a dramatic gesture towards the Government and the Arts Council. — Page 3

Moscow win

Two Soviet investigators won a signal victory against the establishment when the Supreme Soviet voted against removing their immunity from prosecution and recommended an inquiry into the judicial system. — Page 8

Rich pickings

Prize-money for the Wimbledon tennis championships this year will be £3,874,450, an increase of 23 per cent on 1989. The men's and women's singles champions will collect £230,000 and £207,000 respectively. — Page 46

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Only scientists, well protected against potentially deadly spores, visited the innocent-looking island. However, after an extensive survey, an independent advisory group of six scientists concluded that decontamination

was feasible, and, by 1986, Grinard was considered to have been completely cleared.

However, a farmer was invited to graze sheep on the island first to demonstrate that it was fit to be returned to agricultural use. Every day, Mr Steve Lynn charged across the choppy bay to Grinard, where he spent two hours making sure that the 40 sheep were thriving.

The experiment was completed without the loss of a single sheep. Mr Lynn even dipped the flock in an old concrete dip that had not been used since 1914. Burns and an old well provided abundant fresh water. Mr Lynn told *The Times* that he was never afraid of becoming contaminated. His only fear was in crossing the bay — he cannot swim.

Grinard has now been sold back to

the trustees of the original owner, a Mrs Marland, wife of an Edinburgh advocate. She was given £500 for the freehold in 1947 and the Ministry of Defence has accepted just £500 for Grinard's return.

The trustees will formally take over the island on May 1 after Mr Neubert's little ceremony beside the mainland jetty. He will then take journalists on a tour of Grinard, followed by a description of the decontamination process.

Seven families lived on the island at the turn of the century, but it soon became depopulated, making it ideal for the wartime experiment. Since then, however, Grinard has been home to many sea birds, including a colony of cormorants. Thousands of rabbits, all black, have also thrived among the luxuriant heather.



Guiding lights: Stephanie Preston, aged 13, of Norbury, south London, and Sophie Tarrant, aged nine, of Brenchley, Kent, modelling the new uniforms, designed by Jeff Banks, for the Girl Guides and Brownies of the nineties. Report, page 24

Strike vote by power workers

By Ray Clancy

THE Government's programme to privatise the electricity industry could be affected by the decision yesterday of a third of Britain's power workers to vote for strike action over pay.

A dispute may lead to threats of disruption to supplies during the Government's campaign to move the industry into the private sector. Negotiation is expected in November.

Members of the EETPU, the biggest union involved in pay negotiations, voted by 12,771 to 8,184 in favour of a strike. In the same secret ballot they also voted overwhelmingly to take other action short of a strike.

In the ballot union members were asked to vote on an all-out strike and on industrial action short of a strike. The result in favour of both gives the union the option of using the threat of a strike but the action will probably begin with an overtime ban.

The result of ballots of the other three unions representing the rest of the country's power workers are likely today and a similar outcome is expected. Tomorrow leaders from all four engineering unions are meeting to discuss a joint strategy. Last month union negotiators rejected an improved 8.5 per cent offer from employers.

Revolt fading on Hong Kong

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Government's plan to boost confidence in Hong Kong by granting passports to 50,000 heads of household and their families is expected to clear its first hurdle in the Commons today.

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Although they were widely varying estimates at Westminster over the number of Conservative MPs who would carry through their threats to rebel in tonight's second reading vote on the British Na-

tionality (Hong Kong) Bill, there was agreement between the Government whips and the leaders of the revolt that the Government would win the day. A majority of up to 40 or even more is expected.

However, a closer vote is expected immediately afterwards when an Opposition motion to take all the detailed committee stage of the Bill on the floor of the Commons, a move that would clog up parliamentary business for weeks, is voted on.

A defeat on that motion, which remained unlikely last night despite the possibility of a bigger rebel vote, would be damaging for the Government's hopes of getting the legislation through.

Today's full-day debate promises to be an impassioned affair with the Government under attack from some of its hitherto most loyal supporters and the Labour front-bench also facing criticism from its backbenchers for its line of opposing the Bill.

At least one Labour front-bench spokesman is understood to be preparing to defy the leadership line, provoking the risk of dismissal by Mr Neil Kinnock.

Between 20 and 30 Labour MPs, mainly on the far left but including some senior figures such as Mr Peter Shore, are likely to abstain rather than

Continued on page 24, col 4

Lithuanian premier heads for Norway to buy oil

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

Mrs Prunskiene is searching not only for oil supplies but also formal contacts between the two governments. However, the two leading Norwegian oil companies this week declared their unwillingness to be drawn into a political dispute with Moscow.

While Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene was en route for talks with oil suppliers, her parliament responded to Mr Gorbachov's renewed pressure with a reiteration of the republic's desire for compromise. The reply expressed regret at the Soviet threat to cut supplies of oil and gas, called for preliminary talks before May 1 and announced the dispatch of a delegation to Moscow "in the near future".

The parliament also voted to pass a new political legislation before May 1 if the Soviet Union agreed to preliminary talks. This constitutes a new offer from Vilnius but represents a retreat from the original draft, which had offered to suspend the implementation of all legislation already passed as a result of the declaration of independence. Yesterday's resolution restated the parliament's intention to work towards the achievement of real independence through dialogue.

The only drama disturbing the tense calm in Vilnius yesterday was the hijack of a Soviet passenger aircraft to the Lithuanian capital by a man claiming, wrongly, to have a bomb in his luggage and demanding to talk to the Lithuanian government. Mr Igor Kalugin, aged 47, was arrested in Vilnius. On her mission to Norway

Estonia currency, page 8

US hostage 'to be free by tomorrow'

From Juan Carlos Gamero, west Beirut

MUSLIM extremists who have held three American hostages for more than three years in Lebanon last night unexpectedly announced, without naming them, that they will release one of them by tomorrow at the request of Iran and Syria.

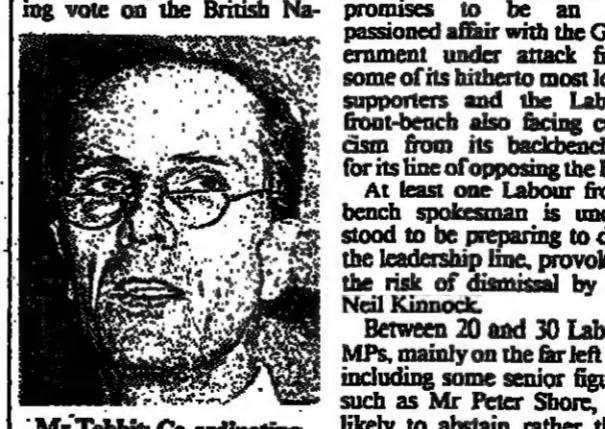
The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine at the same time asked Washington to send Mr John Kelly, a former US Ambassador to Lebanon and now Assistant Secretary of State for Near-Eastern Affairs, to Damascus

"to co-ordinate some final steps to guarantee success within 48 hours".

The jihad's announcement came in a statement delivered to the offices of the independent *an-Nahar* newspaper here. It was accompanied by a photograph of Mr Jesse Turner, an American teacher working for Beirut University College who was abducted with Mr Alain Steen and Mr Robert Polhill on January 24, 1987.

Schoolchildren die, page 10

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



Mr Tebbit: Co-ordinating tactics for later fight



THE FAMOUS GROUSE FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

Teaching unions in conference: one barracks leader; another backs strikes

NUT split as leader rejects call for strike

By David Tyler, Education Editor

THE deep divisions in Britain's largest teachers' union were clearly revealed last night when its new general secretary was jeered by about half its delegates at its annual conference and given a standing ovation by the rest.

Hard-left members of the National Union of Teachers gave Mr Doug McAvoy the slow handclap as he told the conference in Bournemouth that he would stand by his pledge to use strike action as a last resort and would never support an illegal strike.

He was frequently interrupted by delegates who shouted that he never listened to them.

He was barracked and jeered when he said: "I reject the accusation made by some delegates that I will not fight for this union. That is nonsense. I will fight for better salaries and the protection of jobs."

"We will not win that fight by involving members in a national strike at the present time. I believe the vast majority would reject such a strike."

Shouts of "now" greeted his claim that it was essential to choose the right time to strike. He said the timing should be chosen by the union and not "dictated by the Government or any grouping that is out of touch with all of our members".

He said a strike would only succeed if it was backed by a majority of members.

Directly addressing the hard left members of the union, Mr McAvoy said: "I believe that every delegate who voted for strikes to combat the Government's failure should go back to their schools and ask the members, not just the members who turn up at iniquitous meetings."

He also defended his right publicly to express his own views: "I am proud to be the first general secretary to be elected and I am proud to have been elected by an overwhelming number of members who voted."

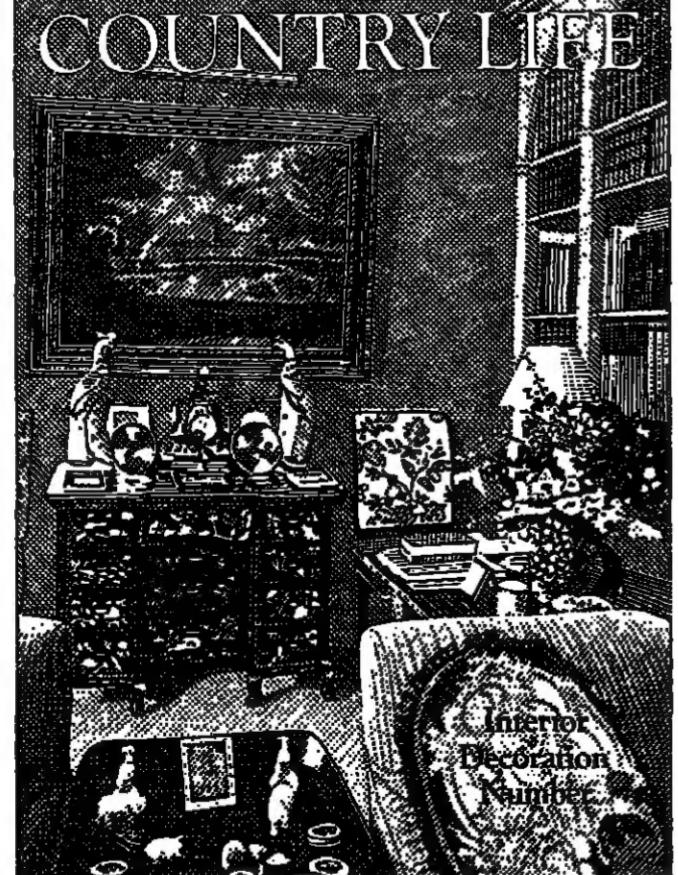
"I said then that I believed the union would succeed in partnership with parents and that that partnership could not be built if schools are being disrupted."

"I said I would oppose any attempt to take this union outside the law. I stand by that. I believe I owe it to the members who elected me to press ahead with those policies."

He had earlier referred to Mr Kenneth Baker, the former Secretary of State for Education and Science, as a "hit-and-run minister".

He told the conference: "If we were to take illegal strike action we would find these

Interior Decoration Number



- From the Hermitage, the greatest cabinetmaker ever?
- How Georgian rooms were really painted
- John Cornforth on the interiors of Robert Adam's pupil
- Bloomsbury by the sea: restoring the art, recapturing the laughter
- Robots and cows: is this the way to more natural milk?
- Plus the usual informed coverage of gardens, wildlife, sport, architecture, collecting, the countryside, farming, fashion, property and the arts.

COUNTRY LIFE
EVERY THURSDAY



Paper protest: teacher delegates reading newspapers during Mr Doug McAvoy's address to the NUT conference in Bournemouth yesterday

Teachers back call for autumn strikes

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

MEMBERS of Britain's second largest teachers' union will be called out on strike in the autumn unless the Government restores teachers' pay negotiating rights, its annual conference decided yesterday.

Although decisions about the timing and form of industrial action was left to the executive of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, union leaders said that a campaign of one-day strikes was the most likely outcome.

Delegates representing 118,000 teachers gave unanimous approval to a motion expressing determination to pursue a campaign to improve pay and conditions.

The conference in Scarborough also endorsed a scheme to encourage teachers to refuse to undertake National Curriculum assessment and administration work, in protest at what delegates said was an excessive workload.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary designate, denied that the plan amounted to industrial action and said his members would be advised to stay within the terms of their contracts.

Under conditions of employment imposed on the profession by the Government in 1987, teachers are required to work a minimum of 1,265 hours a year – roughly equivalent to a 32.5 hour working week.

In addition they can be required to work for any further period which is deemed "reasonable".

A recent survey by the union found that teachers were putting in average of 51

hours a week during term time and led to calls for action to ease the workload.

Mr de Gruchy said: "We are not talking about taking industrial action. Members will get together in schools and make their own decisions about what is reasonable."

"We will advise them to concentrate on preparation and teaching in the classroom."

Assessment and the mountain of paperwork will be relegated to the back of the queue.

"When they have completed what is reasonable they will simply say to the head that they have fulfilled their obligations," he said. The union was prepared to stage local strike action if its members had to pay docked for refusing to do work they considered unreasonable.

But he added: "We will not be going to the courts. British judges are hopelessly biased against working people and trade unions."

Opening the debate on the pay motion, Mrs Sue Rogers, vice-president, said the present two-stage pay award to teachers was worth only 7.3 per cent at a time when inflation was rising.

For three years teachers had endured imposed rises below the rate of inflation and the time had come to take a stand.

"Teachers are literally cracking under the strain. The workload is intolerable," she said.

It is outrageous that the Government is giving Saatchi and Saatchi £2.2 million to persuade young people to come into teaching, yet they do not seem prepared to give

us any money to persuade existing teachers to stay in education."

An illustration of the financial plight facing some teachers was given by Miss Rachel Harris, a teacher from West Suffolk.

She told the conference that she earned more per hour and enjoyed better conditions as a barmaid than she did as a teacher.

As a graduate at the age of 29 she earned only £11,043 a year, £680 a month.

After paying her poll tax, mortgage repayments of £380 a month and £137 a month in repayments on the car she used to get to work she had little more than £120 left.

Her night job as a barmaid brought her £25 a session, free food and a regular bonus.

"I need both jobs to pay my mortgage on a modest two-bedroomed flat which I bought with a colleague in a far from fashionable part of Suffolk and to enable me to run a second-hand car," she said.

They turn up at school in the morning too tired to learn and the fact that the Government does nothing about it amounts to conniving with the exploitation of these children.

"Anyone who travels through our great railway stations cannot fail to see the army of child beggars who infest them. It is shocking that the Government seems content to ignore them."

Mr Terrell, deputy headmaster of Ruths School, a comprehensive in Merton, south London, criticized the Government's refusal to ratify the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ministers had expressed "reservations" about the convention because it conflicted with immigration legislation, he said.

Article nine of the convention gave children the right to live with their parents, a right not allowed to the children of

Rights of child 'not protected'

AFTER a decade of "officially approved uncaring self-interest", Britain's record in protecting the rights of children is as poor as that of some Third World countries, a teachers' union leader said yesterday (Douglas Broom writes).

Mr Graham Terrell, former president of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, told the annual conference in Scarborough that the Government should be ashamed of its failure to protect children.

"In London and our major cities young children are working long hours in a way that can only damage their education," he said.

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Leaders reject left's tax protest

By David Tyler

LEFT-WING moves to force Britain's largest teachers' union to mount a campaign of mass non-payment of the poll tax were rejected by the leadership yesterday.

Mrs Barbara Lloyd, president of the National Union of Teachers, told its annual conference in Bournemouth that parts of the proposed motion encouraged illegal activity while others "were outside the aims and objectives of the union as they stand".

Mr Richard Rieser, a teacher from Hackney, east London, who proposed the motion, said it was the one Mr Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, had earlier claimed had been shaped by the Militant Tendency.

Mrs Lloyd ruled most of the motion out of order preventing calls for Labour authorities not to implement or collect the tax and to undertake not to prosecute anybody who refused to pay the tax.

Left-wingers also failed in their attempt to mount a union campaign against the tax and to join anti-poll tax unions.

Mr Rieser said: "It is true that it was proposed by two or three supporters of Militant out of the 50 or 60 other members who attend our meetings but it was approved by everybody." Non-compliance was the only way to fight the tax.

He said teachers would have to make a moral decision on whether to let poll tax officers have access to school records containing names and addresses.

A revised motion condemning the tax and its adverse effect on the school budgets was passed overwhelmingly.

Later Mrs Lloyd also ruled out of order a demand from the Kingston upon Thames association that British troops should be pulled out of Northern Ireland.

A watered down version of the motion committing the union for the first time to support TUC initiatives on Ulster was passed overwhelmingly.

The motion said: "Generations of school children are being denied the opportunity to grow up and be educated in a peaceful and positive environment."

The NUT, which does not represent teachers in the province, is also committed to "explore ways which the union can assist teachers and children to overcome some of their day-to-day difficulties".

In spite of Mrs Lloyd's ruling, left-wing teachers repeatedly demanded that British troops be removed from Northern Ireland.

The union also reaffirmed its opposition to the Government's scheme for licensed teachers and to take all necessary steps to resist their employment.

NHS staff may strike over pay

Leaders of 130,000 administration and clerical staff employed in the National Health Service yesterday rejected a 7.7 per cent pay offer and threatened strike action.

The national committee of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) said it would propose a programme of strikes at a delegate meeting on May 18.

The union wants an increase of £18 a week or 12 per cent, whichever is greater. The NHS management tabled its "final" offer of 7.7 per cent at talks last Wednesday.

TV film demand

Anglia Television and the BBC were ordered by a judge at Chelmsford Crown Court to hand over footage of a poll tax demonstration at Colchester, Essex, in which 17 people were arrested when trouble flared outside the town hall.

Prince's gift

The Prince of Wales has given £30,000 to help to repair storm damage at his local parish church, St Mary the Virgin at Tetbury, Gloucestershire, where he and his family are regular worshippers.

CORRECTIONS

Yesterday's report about salmonella poisoning at weddings should have made clear that the food at last year's reception at the Savoy was prepared not by the hotel, but by outside caterers who are being sued for damages by the bridal couple concerned.

The portrait of Lord Charles of Amistead, shown yesterday, is by Michael Nokes, not Richard Nokes as printed.

Salaries 'well above inflation'

By David Young

MANAGEMENT salaries are rising at well above the rate of inflation, with further double-figure rises likely to be conceded by many companies particularly in the South-east according to a survey.

The result, says the Reward Group, which did the study, could be company failures and significant shedding of labour.

The survey involved 1,000 companies, employing more than a million people, and analysed the salaries of 26,123 working in senior management and in supervisory roles. Reward says that it is the most representative management pay survey yet published.

It found that last month annual basic pay rises for managers averaged 11.8 per cent compared with 11.1 per cent in September last year, 8.5 per cent in March last year and 6.4 per cent in September 1988.

Companies are now predicting that overall management pay will rise by 9.1 per cent over the next year, but Reward says that experience suggests that this figure is more an expression of hope.

The survey found that employers, especially in the South-east and in the Thames Valley, expect to give rises of between 8 per cent and 10 per cent.

Reward warns that continued pressure on salaries could lead to problems for many companies. The survey says: "Such a level of pay increases raises some very difficult questions. There is no doubt

Average Management Pay

	Total Earnings	% Increase
Chief Executive-General Manager	£20,945 to £27,838	10.5
Accounts-Financial Controller	£20,797 to £28,000	8.6
Company Secretary	£18,866 to £24,188	10.3
Construction-Contracts Manager	£15,418 to £22,030	18.9
Construction-Assistant Surveyor	£23,000 to £25,000	8.6
Construction Manager	£21,010 to £24,500	15.3
Engineering-Chief Engineer	£17,341 to £24,455	11.1
Marketing Manager	£20,732 to £26,680	9.3
Chief Personnel Manager	£18,536 to £23,913	8.3
Works Manager	£17,250 to £20,044	10.3
Chief Scientist-Technologist	£18,028 to £23,800	8.2
Sales Manager	£19,284 to £27,429	8.5
Legal Adviser	£23,655 to £28,180	18.5
Graduate Trainee	£23,209 to £23,000	11.2

"Recruitment and training costs will spiral, along with salaries and payroll costs. Companies are already struggling to survive in an increasingly hostile financial environment and will have moved no further forward in stabilizing their workforce."

Recruitment costs will rise, along with payroll costs, when firms are paying high interest rates on borrowings.

The alternatives, says Reward, are for companies to carry out more training to improve the usefulness and loyalty of employees. The survey also found that despite recent tax changes, the provision of company cars continues to rise. It said 35.9 per cent of middle managers have cars, compared to 19.5 per cent in 1985.

Reward Management Salary Survey, March 1990. (The Reward Group, Reward House, Diana Way, Stone Business Park, Stone, Staffordshire. Single issue £120, subscription £190.)

THE vexed issue of extradition will dominate a meeting today of the Anglo-Irish ministerial conference as British minister's seek clarification of recent court decisions in Dublin not to send terrorist suspects to Northern Ireland.

He said yesterday: "The consequence of the two recent judgments could have given some people the impression that there was a safe haven for terrorists in the Republic." Mrs Thatcher is also expected to express British dismay at the judgments when she meets Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Republic's Prime Minister, at 10 Downing Street tomorrow.

Mr Peter Brooke, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, requested a con-

ference meeting to concentrate on extradition after he had talks with Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs, earlier this month.

Isaacs announces £2m deficit and ten new operas

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

THE Royal Opera House has taken the unprecedented step of budgeting for a £2 million deficit in the current year while still staging one of the musically most ambitious opera programmes to date in a dramatic challenge to the Government and the Arts Council.

The country's pre-eminent classical venue is not only carrying over a deficit of £3.3 million from the last financial year, but is also preparing to let it build to nearly £5.5 million to preserve its high musical standards.

Announcing a programme for 1990-91 which includes 10 opera productions new to Covent Garden, Mr Jeremy Isaacs, general director, said yesterday that unless there was some indication of a solution to the funding crisis by the autumn "I do not know what will happen".

He said: "We cannot slash

to ribbons a programme the public find worth supporting. We cannot go on indefinitely budgeting for a deficit. We have to know where we are by the autumn of this year, I do not think we can go on much longer than that not knowing."

"Without the money, we would have to have the most drastic of drastic rethink, and that would mean Armageddon," the autumn Treasury statement gives a firm indication about funding for the following financial year.

"There will be a serious cash crisis by the end of the year unless something happens that is not happening now."

That could mean either an emergency contingency grant from the Government, or rescue from private sponsors in the City. For the first time the Arts Council has built in its own contingency fund of £2.5 million this year, but

nearly all of that has already been spent on rescuing the English National Ballet.

Despite an 11 per cent increase in the Royal Opera House's Arts Council grant for this year, to £15.3 million, unless there is the promise of more than 20 per cent, an increase of about 24 million, the Royal Opera House will be unable to balance its books by the end of the three-year funding period in 1992.

Mr Isaacs put the magnitude of the deficit down to an income shortfall due to an "over-ambitious" expectation of £2 million from private subvention which had been affected by the rise in interest rates, and an overspend of £1 million on overheads which increased with inflation-linked wage rises, all added to accumulated shortfalls in government funding.

However, he said that he would not preside over any further cuts in productions or musical standards to tackle the deficit. Nor would he follow the example of the Royal Shakespeare Company by closing.

Public approval of the opera programme was attested to by the fact that last year 90 per cent box office sales were recorded, and £6 million in sponsorship and corporate support was raised. That meant the past ratio of 60 per cent government grant to 40 per cent earned income had been reversed; a 50-50 ratio was a reasonable expectation.

Productions had been cut so that they represented only 5 per cent of overall costs, and more cuts could not be made, Mr Isaacs said. Staff cuts, too, proved to be impossible while still maintaining "a proper and adequate service".

In the next few weeks the opera house is expected to announce an increase in ticket prices of at least 10 per cent, which is likely finally to bring the first standard £100 seat to Covent Garden. The present spread of prices is £1 to £90.

Mr Isaacs said yesterday that he was still in negotiation with the local authority to find a development for his estate which would satisfy planners.

Last year Lord Romsey, who is aged 42, announced that the company administering the public side of the Broadlands estate had gone into voluntary liquidation; since then he has run the estate on a personal basis.

• Staff at Churchill's birthplace saved the stately home and its valuable contents from serious damage when fire broke out in the roof.

Firemen praised staff yesterday who tried to put out the flames at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire and then protected its vast collection of books in the library below the seat of the blaze.

The police administrator, Mr Paul Duffie, saw flames in the roof of a tower where repair work had been carried out earlier in the day.

Mr Duffie said: "The fire brigade did not use one more drop of water than was necessary so damage was kept to a minimum." The blaze was brought under control within an hour. No one was injured and there was no serious structural damage.

An investigation into the cause was taking place and a conservation expert was called in to examine the collection of 10,000 books. The Duke of Marlborough was not in residence at the time.

Mr Patten rejected it, saying that the needs of the historic house did not justify the introduction of "unacceptable shopping developments in the

area".

He is still smarting over the decision last year by Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, to refuse planning permission for a supermarket and garden centre at Broadlands' 5,000 acres. The inspector at the initial planning inquiry recommended that the plan go ahead, after hearing Lord Romsey's argument that it would provide at least £8 million for urgent house repairs.

Mr Patten rejected it, saying that the needs of the historic house did not justify the introduction of "unacceptable shopping developments in the

Cash crisis for Broadlands

By Alan Hamilton

BROADLANDS, the Hampshire home of the late Earl Mountbatten of Burma which has served as honeymoon retreat to the last two generations of royalty, is in serious financial trouble, according to its current occupant.

Lord Romsey, grandson and heir to the last Viceroy of India and former honorary grandfather to the Prince of Wales, and who was killed by an Irish terrorist bomb in 1979, admitted yesterday he had spent much of his inheritance trying to keep the house and grounds open. He now faces a bill of £14 million for essential repairs and future upkeep of the house that was once the home of Queen Victoria's prime minister, Lord Palmerston.

"If we cannot find the funds from some sort of development we shall have to consider closing the house," Lord Romsey said yesterday, "I cannot go on bearing the financial burden. I know people think I am wealthy, but I simply have a lot of assets that look very nice, and a large overdraft."

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Roedean's rival to close in summer

By Robin Young

CRANBORNE Chase, one of the most famous public schools for girls, is to close at the end of this summer term.

High interest rates and the cost of maintaining the 18th century building at Wardour Castle, near Tisbury, Wiltshire, in which it was housed, are blamed for the decision, which the governors announced yesterday.

Cranborne Chase was founded as a sister school to Roedean in 1946 by its first headmistress, Miss C B Galton, who held office for 23 years. In 1961 it had to be saved by an appeal to parents when unexpectedly heavy costs were incurred moving to Wardour Castle from the school's original site at Wimborne Dorset.

In 1969 the school set a precedent when Mr Michael Neal, formerly a housemaster at Eton, was appointed head

in succession to Miss Galton.

The school has been noted for its strength in the arts. Old girls include Diana de Vere Cole, the book illustrator and television writer, and Iona Brown, the violinist.

Since 1987 the number of pupils — at £2,425 a term for boarding and tuition — has dropped from 140 to 96.

Cranborne Chase experimented briefly with scholarships for boys in the sixth form in the 1970s, but later reverted to being a single sex school. It was never able to accommodate more than 145 pupils, which proved an expensive handicap with a costly building and grounds to maintain.

Traditionally a little less expensive than Roedean, the best known girls' public school, Cranborne Chase had recently become £80 a term dearer.

Mr Isaacs: "We can't go on budgeting for deficit."

had taken place for 50 hours. Mr Brendan O'Friel, the prison governor, has been supported by his staff and by the Home Office in his policy of refusing to use force to retake the building.

He has not given any detailed reasons at press conferences as to why he decided on this course save that using force would risk lives unnecessarily. For operational reasons no more details could be given while the siege continued.

The rioters are contained. There are no hostages, what damage to the building can be done, has been done. At

the moment they are

negotiating with the

authorities to end the

siege.

Yesterday afternoon there was deadlock and no negotiations, patient or otherwise, over pressure to take a hard



Nina Wigfall, aged 11, models a vestment made at London's National Portrait Gallery at a workshop linked to an exhibition celebrating Cardinal Newman's life

Mother fights ruling in Egypt on child custody

By Tom Giles

A BRITISH mother was yesterday planning to appeal after an Egyptian judge refused to recognize a British court ruling giving her custody of her three children, abducted to Egypt by their father six months ago.

Mrs Pamela Green, aged 35, from Mitcham in Surrey, was told that the ruling effectively allows her Egyptian former husband, Mr Abdul Salem Ahmed, to keep their nine-year-old daughter and two sons aged seven and five at his order making them wards of the court in the UK.

She added: "The next step is to appeal. Pamela's lawyer is trying everything possible to have the appeal heard within the next seven days."

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Airline fights Paris ban on cut-price business flights

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

BUSINESS travellers between London and Paris have been denied the chance of saving £100 on a return air ticket by the "obduracy" of the French government, it was claimed yesterday.

British Midland Airways is to begin services from Heathrow to Paris Charles de Gaulle on May 24. It had aimed at the 20 per cent of regular business air passengers, whose companies insist they travel economy class, by offering a full business class service at £100 less than the equivalent business-class fare available on either British Airways or Air France.

The French government, however, rejected that proposal, although it had received approval from Britain.

Mr Austin Reid, managing director of British Midland,

said: "Many companies, especially in France, insist on their staff buying economy tickets."

"We were certain our proposed business fare of £149 for anyone returning within three days — the most usual length of stay for most business trips — would have proved extremely popular. Unfortunately the French refused."

"It demonstrates that there are still different attitudes towards liberalization and competition within Europe."

The airline is still fighting the ban with the help of the Department of Transport, but may have to wait for another two years when a new agreement enabling airlines to set the fares they wish — provided just one country agrees — becomes law throughout Europe. In the meantime British Midland is introducing a range of fares which roughly match the price of an economy seat on the two big carriers, British Airways and Air France.

"We are more than confident in taking on the national flag carrier," Mr Reid said. "In the 1980s we helped to change the face of air travel on UK domestic routes by campaigning successfully against considerable opposition to provide greater competition, choice and value for money."

"In Europe we have already proved on the Heathrow to Dublin and Heathrow to Amsterdam routes that we can take on national flag carriers and gain a very considerable market share. The launch of a Heathrow-Paris service on Europe's premier route is another very important step in our expansion strategy and we expect to make further announcements later this year."

British Midland has had

remarkable success in its battle to compete with British Airways and now has a 30 per cent share of Scottish routes, 46 per cent of Belfast services, 25 per cent of Amsterdam flights and 19 per cent of Dublin routes. The airline is confident that it will persuade at least 15 per cent of passengers on the Paris route to make the switch.

It was half-way through its four-hour journey from Pembroke Dock to Rosslare, Irish Republic, on a night sailing on 8 April, just a day after the fire on the Scandinavian Star in the North Sea in which nearly 200 people died.

Mr Michael Butterworth, aged 50, a management consultant, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, died on the Norwegian. He was found overcome by smoke in his cabin.

Thief may have started ship fire

By Nicholas Watt

A FIRE that killed a passenger on board a B&I ferry in the Irish Sea and injured 32 other people may have been started as a diversion by thieves who stole money from the ship, Welsh police said yesterday.

Inspector Dai Davies, of Dyfed-Powys Police, said that he could not rule out a possible link between the fire and the theft, although he had no evidence to support the theory.

Police are still waiting for the results of tests by forensic scientists and they will be re-interviewing most of the 219 passengers and 71 crew interviewed and fingerprinted after the fire.

The theft of the money, which belonged to B&I, took place after the fire broke out. The company estimates that £3,000 was stolen.

Mr Davies said: "If there is a link, it might have been an opportunist theft by someone who took advantage of the confusion caused by the fire or it might have been a pre-planned diversion."

Police suspected arson after they discovered that there had been two fires in an unused passenger section on C deck, which was out of bounds.

Three Irishmen were questioned and released on police bail after 24 hours.

One detective said: "Someone among the passengers knows exactly what happened and must be getting fairly worried by now."

A rescue operation involving RAF helicopters and lifeboats took place after the fire broke out in a block of 10 cabins on the 9,000-ton Noronna.

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The cult hero of the fifties and his "macho, craggy" replacement being given a public showing yesterday

Pilot Dan dares to be different

By John Young

IN THE far off days of April 1950 the first words spoken by Dan Dare were: "Kingfisher's ready to go, Sir Hubert." Forty

years on, the reincarnated space hero seems to be, if anything, slightly less loquacious.

"Ram-wave ... energize," are his introductory remarks in his new adventure, as he blasts what is described as a soldentie mock-up of the Mekon through the roof of his spaceship.

His dumpy little batman, Digby, gives a squeal of what one assumes to be delight, and moments later the two of them plus the lovely Professor Jocelyn Peabody are on their way, like it or not, to another impossible.

• The number of hourly take-offs and landings at Heathrow is to be increased from 72 to 74 to ease delays for passengers, the Civil Aviation Authority said last night.

war in space. But is Colonel Dare the man he was? Although he has undergone robotic plastic surgery to become "more macho and craggy" than before, the suspicion is that he has also become something of a wimp.

To set a good example to a new generation of young readers, he has eschewed smoking and abandoned his pipe.

He has, however, also discarded his officer's uniform in favour of a one-piece designer combat suit. Designer combat suit? Still worse, he has become a strict vegetarian.

Well, not exactly. His disembodied voice, relayed to the Science Museum in London yesterday, confessed that his

Then for some reason things went wrong. In 1959 his creator, Frank Hampson, re-signed. Ten years later *Eagle* itself disappeared, and Dan was not resurrected until

1982,

and then only in an

insipid black-and-white ver-

sion and masquerading as his

own great grandson.

It was not the most glori-

ous relaunch.

Mr Davidge, publishing

director of Fleetway Publica-

tions, which this week

launches its revamped *Eagle*

magazine, appeared discon-

certed. "Well, a sort of

vegetarian," he admitted.

During the last 40 years Dan

has had his ups and downs.

During the 1950s he was every

schoolboy's hero, forever

guarding the planet against a

coming of alien invaders.

Now, with the help of a new

adventure serial starting on

BBC Radio Four tonight,

the original, if modified, Dan will,

it is hoped, return to rescue

Planet Earth. From Saturday

Eagle will appear in full

colour, and negotiations are

close to conclusion for a

television series to begin in

about 18 months' time.

The first of the deaths dealt

with was that of Mr Colin

Wafer, aged 19. According to

medical evidence he died of

traumatic asphyxia.

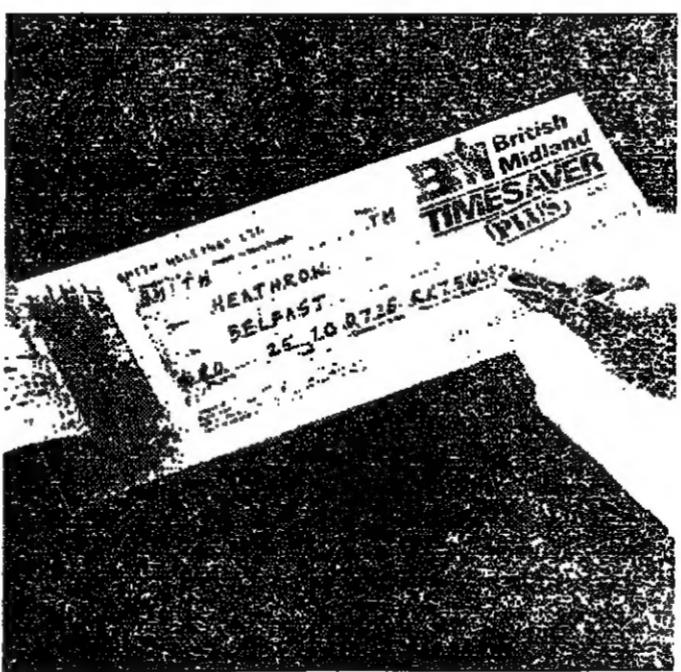
The inquest was adjourned

until today.

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Football inquest hears coroner's warning

By Peter Davenport

FORTY-THREE of the victims of the Hillsborough disaster had no trace of alcohol in their blood and only 15 of the dead were found to have levels above the legal driving limit, the resumed inquest into the deaths was told yesterday.

The figures, the first detailed breakdown given, were produced by Dr Alexander Forrest, a consultant chemical pathologist at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield who carried out tests on blood samples of all but one of the 95 victims.

Since the disaster on April 15 last year during the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest, there has been continuing debate about the effects of alcohol on the events.

The resumed Sheffield inquest will be limited in its scope because the Director of Public Prosecutions has yet to decide if there should be any criminal prosecutions arising out of the tragedy. The coroner, Dr Stefan Popper, told the jury of seven men and four women that they would hear evidence of why, when and where the 95 died but not how.

There would be no evidence from South Yorkshire police officers, Sheffield Wednesday club officials or stewards who were on duty at the ground.

Dr Popper said: "No criticism or attack on any individual or corporation will be allowed and I will do nothing that will be detrimental to the DPP's inquiry."

If there is no decision to prosecute the inquest will resume and conclude hearing evidence before the jury return verdicts. If charges are brought the inquest will remain adjourned until after any subsequent court proceedings before any decision is taken on whether it should conclude its deliberations.

The first of the deaths dealt with was that of Mr Colin Wafer, aged 19. According to medical evidence he died of traumatic asphyxia.

The inquest was adjourned until today.

Baker bustles onward, community chargeometer at the ready

By Jamie Dettmer

IN HUSHED tones and with a certain girlish glee, the fine Tory womenfolk of Bury busied around whispering about the imminent arrival of the chairman.

To the stranger they were imperious but once the name of Mr Kenneth Baker crossed their lips, these middle-aged Boudiccas suddenly came over all flushed like girls preparing for their first date or teenage fans waiting to catch a glimpse of their favourite film star.

Mr Baker is the best Clark Gable the Tory party has in its

senior ranks. Mr Michael Heseltine is much brasher, more Paul Newman. With his slicked back hair, winning smile and protective attention, Mr Baker did not let the loyal Tory ladies

party. Talking to the Tory candidates in Bury, Mr Baker unveiled for the second time this month his main weapon against Labour — the community chargeometer.

While he might pass for Clark Gable in Bury, Mr Baker does not do a good impression of Robert Mackenzie. No swings for the Tory chairman, "Red's up at the top, blue's down at the bottom," he said as he indicated how Labour councils charge higher poll taxes.

A hesitant candidate interjected. "I do not think the community charge has been publicized enough," she said. Campaigning with Mr Baker is

rush and tear, all high-powered cars, mobile telephones, hotels and photo opportunities.

His message throughout the day was unwavering. "Conservative councils cost you less, Labour councils cost you more," he said at least a couple of dozen times in the morning. "That's the message of this election."

At Bolton his message remained the same despite the fact that the Tory headquarters in the town looked more like a bombed site — the result of several anti-poll tax bricks through the windows.

"Whoever threw the bricks is annoyed that our campaign is

hitting and finding targets," he announced.

"Isn't it a reflection of unpopularity?" a local reporter asked. "No," replied the chairman, half way out the door on to another venue for his chargeometer.

Mr Baker last night attacked Labour's local government campaign as a "triumph for rhetoric over action, packaging over substance and presentation over policy".

He accused Mr Brian Gould and Dr Jack Cunningham, Labour front bench spokesmen, of running "a fraudulent campaign, cynical and dishonest".

TM BISHOP

Mr Baker: Clark Gable of the Tories

Kinnock says local elections will be poll tax referendum

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

LABOUR set out yesterday to turn the local government elections on May 3 into a national referendum on the Government, with the poll tax as its centrepiece.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader, said at the Westminster launch of Labour's campaign that the Government had imposed the heaviest tax burden in history and caused the highest unemployment in 50 years, as well as bringing the biggest debts and the widest trade deficit. The poll tax was not an exception to government policies, but an exemplification of them.

The Government that had produced such a tax had no sense of judgement and no integrity, he said. People felt, and were right to feel, that they had been conned and swindled by such a Govern-

ment. Only now were ministers beginning to mouth the words of concession and compromise, and they were "incapable of regaining the trust of the majority".

Labour is committed to repealing the poll tax, but Mr Bryan Gould, the party's environment spokesman, said yesterday that it could be more than two years into the life of a Labour government before it was in a position to introduce a replacement.

Mr Kinnock said many of the 30 Labour MPs allegedly in favour of non-payment of the poll tax had come to realize that "those who make laws can't seek to change laws by breaking laws". He again condemned those responsible for violence at demonstrations, saying a fringe element from both left and right had

battened on to the issue. Dr Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, was at pains to play down expectations of sweeping Labour gains. While the party was in buoyant mood after the Mid Staffordshire by-election, the seats being contested were those last fought in 1986. Then Labour had gained 594 seats and had won control of 17 councils.

It would, he said, be an "outstanding performance on May 3 simply to retain that position". Dr Cunningham and Mr Kinnock refused to name councils where they hoped to win control.

With the Conservatives promising that their councils would keep costs down, Mr Kinnock deliberately offered a contrasting approach based on Labour's belief that people were prepared to vote and pay for better public services. Labour councils would bring "value for people as well as for money".

Elections are being held for all seats in 32 London boroughs and nine Scottish regions and three islands. In addition there are contests for a third of the seats in 36 metropolitan districts and 120 non-metropolitan districts in England and Wales.

Of the London boroughs, Labour holds overall control in 15, the Conservatives in 12, the Liberal Democrats two, and three are hung councils.

Of the 1,914 seats at stake, Labour will be defending 920, the Conservatives 696, the Liberal Democrats 175 and others 123.

In Scotland, Labour has overall control of four regional councils and minority control of one. Independents control one regional and three island councils, and there is no overall control in the other three. Labour will defend 223 seats, the Conservatives 61, the Liberal Democrats 41, the SNP 38, independents 151 and others 10.

In the English metropolitan districts, Labour has overall control of 30, the Conservatives of three. The Liberal Democrats have minority control of one and there is no overall control in the other two. Labour will defend 598 seats, the Conservatives 143, Liberal Democrats 87 and others 21.

Labour controls 43 of the non-metropolitan districts, the Conservatives 41, the Liberal Democrats seven, and there is no overall control in 22. Labour is defending 693 seats, the Conservatives 629, Liberal Democrats 371, independents 83, and others 40.

Labour controls four of the five Welsh districts being contested, with no overall control in the other. Labour defends 42 seats, the Conservatives 13, Liberal Democrats six, and others eight.

Labour promises that council employees would be entitled to a minimum number of training days per year.

Outlining the practices of different Labour-controlled authorities, *A Good Deal* suggests that councils should give compensation to tenants if repairs are not carried out within a specified period and offer cash compensation to meals-on-wheels customers whose food arrives late or cold.

Labour would set up a quality commission for local authorities which would set out a model complaints procedure. It would encourage councils to have their own ombudsmen and to conduct yearly residents' attitude surveys, with results having to be published in the run-up to elections, which would take place every year.

Labour controls 43 of the non-metropolitan districts, the Conservatives 41, the Liberal Democrats seven, and there is no overall control in 22. Labour is defending 693 seats, the Conservatives 629, Liberal Democrats 371, independents 83, and others 40.

Labour controls four of the five Welsh districts being contested, with no overall control in the other. Labour defends 42 seats, the Conservatives 13, Liberal Democrats six, and others eight.

Labour would set up a quality commission for local authorities which would set out a model complaints procedure. It would encourage councils to have their own ombudsmen and to conduct yearly residents' attitude surveys, with results having to be published in the run-up to elections, which would take place every year.

The nationalists published a 10-point charter for local democracy that they claimed would establish the rights and responsibilities essential for healthy local government in Scotland.

Mr Michael Russell, vice-convenor of the SNP, said that, if it were carried out, the charter would bring genuine democracy to council chambers: "For too long, Labour have abused their control of councils, running them like tin-pot

dictators in charge of one-party states."

FOR the second time this week, the "tin-pot dictators" of the Labour Party were criticized for their mishandling of local government, council juking and arrogant abuse of power.

Yesterday, it was the Scottish National Party that lambasted Labour's record in local government, days after an attack by Mr Michael Forsyth, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party.

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dictators in charge of one-party states."

Many Labour councillors act as if they owned Scottish local government, as if councils were there for their benefit,

to provide them with expenses and foreign holidays, rather than to serve the public."

The charter includes proposals that the responsibilities of councils would be guaranteed in a written constitution of an independent Scotland, and that government interference would be kept at a minimum, ensuring that councils were free to raise and spend their resources as they saw fit.

The community charge would be abolished and replaced by a local income tax. Non-domestic rates would make way for a local business tax. Both would be based on the ability to pay.

The nationalists would create single-tier, multi-purpose councils elected by

proportional representation. The charter also says that councillors ought to be paid salaries commensurate with their responsibilities.

In order to curb "junketing", the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities should draw up a code of practice covering overseas visits, the charter says. Councillors would have to show that the visit would benefit the community.

Mrs Kathleen McAlorum, an SNP member of Motherwell District Council, said: "The need for genuine democracy and people power in local government is one of the principle demands emerging in the campaign for next month's regional elections."

A final decision is expected within the next 12 months and, if approval is given, the new crossing would be in place shortly after the turn of the century.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, said there had been substantial pressure for a new bridge between the Lothians and Fife as traffic flow on the existing road bridge was approaching the density of the Severn Bridge.

A site for the bridge has not been pinpointed, but it would be almost certainly placed upstream from the existing crossing.

Forth may get third bridge

A THIRD bridge to span the Forth estuary may be built to cater for the burgeoning traffic volumes expected in the east of Scotland over the coming years, it emerged yesterday (Kerry Gill writes).

A final decision is expected within the next 12 months and, if approval is given, the new crossing would be in place shortly after the turn of the century.

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Pitch blessing

Mr Paul Welham, a Rugby League forward with Hull FC, will make his history at the club's Boulevard ground when his marriage to Miss Donna Gray is blessed on the pitch.

The idea for the service on June 16 came from Miss Gray, who had never seen a rugby match before meeting Mr Welham last May.

A final charge, of destroying wild birds in the colony, was dropped after magistrates ruled there was insufficient evidence.

Mrs Eve Mee, a weighbridge clerk at the site, told the court she was telephoned by Mr Bennett and told about the sand martin colony being wiped out.

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Mrs Eve Mee, a weighbridge

Tubes were part of gun, Ridley assures House

THE Government is entirely satisfied that the tubes seized by Customs and Excise as they were about to be exported to Iraq formed part of a gun. Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told MPs yesterday.

Labour MPs criticized the Government for failing to act earlier and there were calls for Mr Ridley to resign. The opposition spokesman said that the Government had been deceived and duped on a grand scale.

In a statement to the Commons when the House resumed after the Easter recess, Mr

Exports to Japan up 29%

Britain's manufactured exports to Japan increased 29 per cent last year to £1,936 million. "quite an achievement", Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said at Commons questions.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said there was still a huge surplus in favour of Japan and the improvement referred to by the Secretary of State was only a "sea-bite".

Mr Ridley said that Britain was on course to double exports to Japan in three years to this year.

Tributes paid to peer

When the House of Lords resumed yesterday, tributes were paid to Lord Bruce Gardyne, a former Conservative Treasury minister, who died during the recess.

Lord Bruce of Densitas, Opposition spokesman on Treasury affairs, said the whole House regretted his untimely death. During the past 18 months, Lord Bruce-Gardyne had shown "exemplary courage in the face of adversity".

The Earl of Caithness, Paymaster General, said that the House would wish to join in Lord Bruce of Densitas' comments.

British Steel 'transformed'

British Steel had secured a huge transformation to make it one of the most efficient and productive steel industries in the world, Mr Douglas Hogg, Minister of State for Industry, said during Commons questions.

In 1980, the UK produced 84 tonnes a man year; in 1988, the figure was 347 tonnes.

UDR deaths

An application by the Rev Ian Paisley (Antrim North, DUP) for an emergency debate on the murder of four Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers by the IRA last week was rejected by the Speaker.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: Prime Minister, British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill, second reading.

Lords (3): National Health Service and Community Care Bill, committee first day.

Dodging the planners

By Robert Morgan

AS PARLIAMENT resumes after the Easter break, government business managers are finding that three hours a week of their valuable time are having to be devoted to private Bills.

A backlog of more than a dozen private Bills now stands on the Order Paper, and if opponents keep up their fight, almost every Thursday evening, between now and the end of July will have to be devoted to debating these measures, Thursdays being the traditional days for the consideration of opposed private business.

Private Bills get less attention than any other parliamentary business, yet they are of vital importance and can have wide repercussions.

Anyone may promote a private Bill, but in the main they are brought forward by three broad groups: British Rail and other transport undertakings; local authorities; and companies wishing to undertake big construction works.

In the last category that is causing the blockage in the parliamentary system because opponents believe that Parliament has no role to play. They argue that companies wishing to build docks and other constructions should go through the normal local planning procedures where, they believe, their plans would be rejected. In the Commons, a sympathetic Government with a big majority can ensure that such proposals get through.

Both Houses became concerned about the private Bill procedure and in 1987 they set up a joint committee to examine the issue. Nearly two years ago it published a 230-page report containing 52 conclusions and

IRAQI ORDER

Ridley said that indications were that the tubes stopped at Teesport in Cleveland were part of a gun, albeit one of a scale outside anything previously experienced.

He added: "Until a few days ago, my department had no knowledge that the goods were designed to form part of a gun. If my department had known that purpose, then they would of course have advised that licences were necessary, and they would not have been granted."

The Government recently became aware in general terms of an Iraqi project to develop a long-range gun based on designs developed by the late Dr Gerald Bull. The goods that were seized at Teesport, and related documents, are consistent with what is known of Dr Bull's design."

He congratulated the customs for stopping the export of the parts and he understood that it would not be possible to build a full-size gun from the parts already supplied.

Mr Gordon Brown, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that since 1983 the Department of Trade had had access to specifications and drawings and could have had access to the contract governing the export order. Why had no action been taken in that time?

The Government had taken no action even after it was known in June 1988 that the Space Research Corporation of Dr Gerald Bull was involved.

No action had been taken even when the Walter Somers company said to the department that they had evidence of an aiming and positioning device being ordered by Iraq.

Meetings should have taken place on that matter between the department, the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office.

Why had nothing been said for a week after Customs and Excise had seized the consignment and the media had been briefed that this was merely a petro-chemical order?

This Government has been deceived and duped on a grand scale and, but for the intervention of Customs and Excise staff, serious military consequences could have resulted."

There had been slackness and complacency of an almost criminal dimension.

"Is Mr Ridley's department going to accept responsibility and will he now announce he is setting up an independent inquiry to establish the degree of culpability?"

Mr Ridley: I must say that is going over the top on a scale outside anything previously experienced (laughter). I do seriously counsel him not to have been lacking.

Mr Ridley said that extra vigilance had resulted in the Customs and Excise's success, not very long after a further success was achieved with the discovery of the nuclear trigger devices.

Labour angry at 'cut' questions

IRAQI ORDER

which was to protect ministers when under fire.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said that he had never before heard a minister refuse to answer a perfectly legitimate question because there might be a case.

Mr David Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab) said that only five MPs had still been trying to ask questions when the Speaker had ended the exchanges.

The Speaker said that he could easily have allowed questions to run on, but that would be unfair to those who wished to speak in the subsequent debate.

During points of order later, Mr Skinner said that he suspected the existence of a hitherto unknown standing order

necessary of a public local inquiry into objections".

The committee gave further ammunition to the opponents of private legislation by suggesting that the carrying over of Bills from one session to the next should be limited; that no Bill should be carried over more than two sessions and that every Bill outstanding when Parliament is dissolved should be subject to a separate revival motion and not brought back *en bloc* as at present.

The committee also came forward with detailed procedural changes to stop debates on technical motions which now cause delay. Many Bills to which there is no real opposition are delayed by opponents of later Bills using delaying tactics.

The joint committee pointed the way to easing that bottleneck, too, by requiring reasons to be stated for blocking each Bill and requiring more MPs to sign blocking motions.

But none of these proposals seems set for early implementation. Sir Geoffrey told MPs that existing arrangements had worked quite well and had lasted a long time. Any changes should work as well and be as ensuring.

He was looking at the matter, not only with a sense of urgency, but with some care.

When pressed to say when he would come forward with changes, Sir Geoffrey said this session, but admitted that some changes might require "substantial legislation".

Unless he acts soon, Conservative backbenchers will find many of their Thursday evenings spent in the division lobbies rather than on the way back to their constituencies for the weekend.



Mr Nicholas Ridley, whom the Opposition said had been duped on a grand scale

New moves on cot deaths

RESEARCH

THE Government is waiting for the findings of an expert working group before acting on claims that the emission of toxic gases from soiled mattresses may be responsible for cot death syndrome.

In reply to pressure from both sides of the Commons yesterday and a charge of complacency from the Labour front bench, Mr Eric Forth, Under Secretary of State for Industry and Con-

a copy of Dr Richardson's report had been received by the department on June 12.

As a result, the laboratory of the Government Chemist had been asked to undertake a scientific assessment of the research work. A group of independent experts had also been asked to investigate further claims by Dr Barry Richardson about emission of toxic gases from soiled mattresses.

Mr Forth said that the Department of Health had written to the Department of Trade and Industry on June 7 last year about research by Dr Barry Richardson into cot deaths and

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Solicitors will have to accept 'cab rank' rule

COURTS BILL

THE Government has bowed to the Lords and accepted a change to the Courts and Legal Services Bill requiring solicitors acting as advocates to operate the "cab rank" rule. Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney General, told the Commons yesterday.

Under the rule at present, barristers are required to take cases offered to them, popular or unpopular, or easy or difficult.

Moving the second reading of the Bill, which provides for extensive changes to the legal profession and ends several restrictive practices, Sir Patrick said that the Government had now decided to accept the principle of the Lords amendment on the "cab rank" rule.

That amendment excluded those rights of audience in the superior courts that solicitors enjoyed at present.

The Government proposed, having consulted the Law Society and the Bar Council, that the Bill should provide for a wider application of the "cab rank" principle. It would apply to all rights of audience granted by any professional body in what-ever court or proceedings.

The legal profession had undergone in recent years many great changes, many of which they had instituted themselves. But it was important to help that evolution to continue by ensuring that there were no unnecessary restrictions hindering the public in obtaining legal services.

The general test should be whether the restriction was appropriate to maintain the proper and efficient administration of justice; if it was not, it should go.

The Government proposed that rights of audience before a particular court should depend solely on whether advocates could demonstrate that they had the appropriate education and training, and were bound by appropriate codes of conduct.

The courts and the public would have to be satisfied that advocates could meet the high standards of competence and conduct.

Lending article, 13

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Solidarity seeks fresh role in a post-communist Poland

From Roger Boyes
Gdansk

FRESH paint's characteristic odour masks the whiff of cordite in Gdansk's Oliva Hall; it was here that Solidarity, in the precarious days of 1981, called on the workers of the Warsaw Pact to cast off their chains. Moscow's tanks immediately began revving their engines, and General Jaruzelski, now the Polish President, put the finishing touches to his secret plans for martial law.

Now, as Solidarity gathers for its second congress, the terms have changed. The Warsaw Pact resembles a gentlemen's club in decline, strapped for cash and constantly losing members.

Mr Lech Wałęsa, the star of 1981, has put on weight and picked up a Nobel Peace Prize, and is aiming to be President. Mr Jacek Kuron, the gregarious dissident and Solidarity adviser, is now a chauffeur-driven minister.

The issue is not how to break the spine of totalitarian rule, but how best to use the new freedoms.

Solidarity must determine whether it

is a trade union, a broadly based reform movement, or a governing party. That is a big enough agenda for a five-day congress, but it must in addition decide the future of Mr Wałęsa. Can he remain chairman of Solidarity and still stand for President of Poland?

Mr Andrzej Słowiński, the Solidarity leader in Łódź, thinks not. "I am against one person accumulating both trade union and state functions," he said.

This is more than a family affair. The real task of the congress is to determine the new political balance in the post-communist era. A year ago round-table talks agreed to give communists and their allies a dominant say in the lower house of Parliament paved the way for free elections for the upper house, and provided for a communist President.

That formula has unravelled. The communists have split into two nominally social democratic parties. Mr Wałęsa manoeuvred Solidarity into government, and Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki became East Europe's first non-communist Prime Minister.

The fast-moving events in the dis-

integrating Eastern bloc have made Poland look rather behind the times. As President of Poland, Mr Wałęsa would put his foot on the accelerator.

This pits him directly against Mr Mazowiecki, his old adviser. The round-table was precisely about recognizing limitations. Mr Mazowiecki would dearly like to plead openly for Lithuanian independence but cannot; governmental *Realpolitik* constrains him. He needs another year of stable rule in which to implement unpopular monetarist policies and bring in a free market.

Mr Wałęsa, however, will not give him this time. In General Jaruzelski, Mr Mazowiecki has a very pliant President. If Mr Wałęsa were to take over the considerable powers of the presidency, Mr Mazowiecki would have a constant fight on his hands.

The lines of confrontation at the congress are thus very complex. There are Solidarity delegates who, although no friends of Mr Wałęsa, will urge him to run for the presidency of Poland simply to ease him out of the union chairmanship. In their view, Solidarity has lost

ground as a union over the past year because Mr Wałęsa wants to be a partner, indeed the senior partner, in government rather than a demanding trade unionist.

The union has only a quarter of its 1981 membership, that is about 2.5 million (only about a million of whom pay their dues). As the economy falters, so the union has weakened. Although Solidarity deputies set the pace in the Polish Parliament, the trade union has no real lobby there.

Solidarity, then, has to recover its union roots and find a thriving chairman. Mr Wałęsa is not afraid to challenge the Government, but he does so from different motives. His large new Gdansk house, surrounded by apple trees, symbolizes his distance from workers who feel cheated by market reforms. If Mr Wałęsa yields the chairmanship of the union, what is left for him? — the network of citizens' committees, political cells that are supposed to ginger up reform.

They are led by Professor Zdzisław Najder, Mr Wałęsa's nominee and a

former director of Radio Free Europe. Together they are creating an embryo political party, also under a Solidarity banner but quite distinct from the trade union. This will be the platform for Mr Wałęsa, should he launch a bid for the Polish presidency.

There is, in this swirl of politicking, a great deal of dirty and underhanded conspiracy. A forged interview between Professor Bronisław Geremek, head of the Solidarity caucus, and Hanna Krall, a respected journalist, has been circulating among parliamentary deputies. Its intent was plainly anti-Semitic, with much talk of Jews wanting to seize power.

But this is only one symptom of the infighting between the social democratic wing of Solidarity (broadly represented by Professor Geremek) and the ultra-nationalists, who still march under the Solidarity banner.

There is considerable grassroots revulsion against such scheming, and considerable pressure on congress delegates to maintain a unified Solidarity movement. Partly this is sentimental, partly a

recognition that open splits will plunge Poland into a panic.

Mr Wałęsa's rating in popularity polls has dropped significantly over the past two months, while Mr Mazowiecki's remains surprisingly high. This is because of resentment at Mr Wałęsa's sniping against the Government. Mr Wałęsa concluded that either he should stop criticizing or take on the formal responsibilities of power.

The lesson to be drawn from countries such as Britain, Mr Wałęsa's advisers say, is that a society cannot successfully introduce a decentralized market economy while dispersing political authority. The transition needs strong central government — something that is missing from the present Solidarity line-up.

Mr Wałęsa should thus graduate from workers' champion to statesman. Whether the congress will give its blessing is another matter.

In the words of Mr Władysław Frasyniuk, the Solidarity leader from Wrocław: "Solidarity must now show that it is more than a tool for dismantling the communist system."

Soviet graft investigators win support of parliament

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

TWO Soviet investigators turned popular heroes won a signal victory against the Soviet establishment yesterday when the Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet, voted against removing their immunity from prosecution and recommended instead a top-level inquiry into the whole judicial system.

The head of the Soviet judiciary, the Chief Prosecutor, Mr Aleksandr Sukharyov, is now expected to resign or be dismissed.

A resolution passed by the parliament, after nearly two days of heated debate, said that the investigators — Mr Telman Gulyan and Mr Nikolai Ivanov — should lose their posts with the Soviet procuratorate, although they could retain their immunity from prosecution.

They were warned to end their political activity or risk

forfeiting their immunity in the future.

The resolution also ordered

the judiciary, the police and the KGB to identify and punish those responsible for monitoring the work of the two investigators. A special committee is also to be set up to investigate official corruption.

For the past year the two investigators have been campaigning vociferously against charges that some of their methods constituted "gross violations of the law".

In so doing they have accused members of the Soviet leadership, including President Gorbachov, of sheltering bribe-takers. Mr Ivanov last week made an unauthorized broadcast on Leningrad television in which he repeated the allegations.

The Gulyan-Ivanov case, as it became known, developed into a rallying point for those convinced — through experience or rumour — that the entire bureaucracy is riddled with corruption.

The two investigators, as "little men" with the guts to take on the system, attracted the same constituency of support as Mr Boris Yeltsin, the ousted Moscow party leader.

They were elected to the Congress of People's Deputies last year on a wave of popular support for their defiance, and members of their campaign team also gained seats in last month's local and republican elections.

The only difference between the two investigators and Mr Yeltsin was that they were expected to lose. Before yesterday's Supreme Soviet session, called to debate a parliamentary commission's report into the conduct of the two investigators, it had been predicted that parliament would simply remove their parliamentary privilege and so expose them to immediate prosecution.

On Monday more than 10,000 people joined a demonstration outside the Kremlin in their support. Many shouted slogans proclaiming the innocence of the two investigators; some even condemned Mr Gorbachov for — as they saw it — tolerating a corrupt judiciary for so long.

In the event, the parliamentary commission, which was chaired by the historian and erstwhile Marxist dissident, Mr Roy Medvedev, found the charges of misconduct against Mr Gulyan and Mr Ivanov proved and called for their dismissal.

It went on, however, to set their misdemeanours in the context of the Soviet judicial system as a whole, laying particular blame on the Chief Prosecutor, Mr Sukharyov, and other senior law officials.

They, it said, had fully supported the work of the two investigators until their inquiries threatened to become a political embarrassment.

Romanian orphans testing the Mediterranean waters at the Spanish resort of Playa de Aro yesterday. A total of 62 children were invited for a holiday by the Spanish Tourist Board to mark a visit by Mr Petre Roman, the Romanian Prime Minister, for talks on co-operation in several fields, including tourism

Intellectuals in Baltic squeeze

From Anatol Levin, Tallinn

WHEN Professor Yuri Afanasyev, a leader of the Russian Democratic Platform, announced to a Lithuanian rally 10 days ago that the republic's declaration of independence "marks the beginning of the end of the Russian Empire" he was expressing what for him may be a hope, but for most Russians in the Baltic is however a crucial factor in Russian politics here.

Many Russian intellectuals here support the independence movement, but they are a minority in their own nationality. Their position is not happy, caught as they are between the expectations of their indigenous friends of unconditional support for independence and accusations of "treachery" from the Russians.

Dr Yevgeni Golikov is one of the leaders, with Professor Afanasyev, of the Democratic Platform in Moscow, deputy editor of the Russian magazine *Politika* in Estonia, and a supporter of Estonian independence. "Many Russians call me a traitor," he told me last week, "but I believe my stance is that of a Russian patriot."

He quoted the writer Leonid Levinov: "I love my Mother-

land, but with a different kind of love..."

Mr Golikov did not quote another verse by the same poet beginning "Farewell to unwashed Russia..." The traditional gap between the Russian intelligentsia and the "dark people" — in the Baltic the Russian working classes — is however a crucial factor in Russian politics here.

In the words of Mr Dimitri Mikhailov, chairman of a Russian cultural society which supports the Estonian Popular Front: "What is the point of the end of the Russian Empire?" he was expressing what for him may be a hope, but for most Russians in the Baltic is however a crucial factor in Russian politics here.

Reflecting the "Westernizing" strand in the Russian intellectual tradition, Mr Golikov said: "My position is that of a Western democrat living on the border of Europe. I see in this a certain chance for the Russian nation. I feel that, through living in Estonia, I have grown to be a finer person than my fellow intellectuals in Moscow and Leningrad, and I think that my duty as a Russian living here will be to transmit this to the Russians."

Reflecting a view shared by many Russian conservatives, Mr Golikov spoke of the "cultural genocide" practised by the Soviet system against Russia itself. This was echoed indirectly by a leading member of the Soviet Communist party in Lithuania, Mr Mikhail Alexeyev, who said that the Russian population's "lack of their own cultural identity" is one reason for their "insecurity and tension".

Many Russian intellectuals in the Baltic have become so much a part of the local independence movement that they are incapable of considering the possibility — so real to most ordinary Russians — that the break-up of the Soviet empire could lead to great suffering for the Russian population in its outlying republics.

But others do not fit these well-explored sources of UFO mania. Several of the baffling sightings, some involving Hungarian Army personnel, have been found by the Centre to be more than optical illusions and worthy of scientific investigation.

Mrs Judit Vass, of the Centre, singled out a series of inexplicable events, involving UFO sightings and an apparent encounter with giant extra-terrestrial creatures, at Tarnaszentmária army barracks. These continued for about a month and were duly logged by the Army.

According to the testimony of the entire unit, the UFO intrusion began on the night of October 20 last year with an eerie noise which

Exodus hits East German output

From Anne McElvoy
East Berlin

EAST Germany's outdated industry, stricken by the exodus of workers to the West, has suffered a greater than expected slump in productivity, according to figures released yesterday.

The Government Office for Statistics, free for the first time to report on the unvarnished truth on the state of the country's industry, said that industrial output in the first quarter of the year had fallen 4.7 per cent behind the figure for the same period last year.

Herr Arno Donda, who heads the statistics office, said that 124,000 posts were now unfilled in industry, while the building sector was short of 33,000 workers.

New ecological pressures had caused many factories to decrease pollution, thereby releasing productivity.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to dispense with a glut of overpriced and old-fashioned electrical goods, East German stores yesterday drastically cut the prices of colour televisions and radios. The most popular home-produced colour television, which sold for 4,900 Ostmarks (£1,700), has been halved in price in an attempt to woo custom back from the West German market.

In another development, Herr Friedrich Wolff, the president of East Germany's Lawyers' Association, warned yesterday that legal services were sliding into chaos in the climate of uncertainty.

He said that there is no reason why the US should not raise objections to the Giscardian defence doctrine that has kept American troops off French soil.

The view from Washington may well be different, but some observers here consider it significant that Mr Bush told *The Times* earlier this week that the US has turned down the idea of appointing a French officer to head the integrated command.

Recently floated by the Pentagon as a possible inducement for "movement" by the French on this touchy issue, the idea was coolly received in military circles here. As M

AN AIR France Concorde will speed President Mitterrand to the Florida coast today for a brief meeting with President Bush at which the future of the Atlantic alliance will head the agenda.

In the few hours available to them at Key Largo, they are expected to concentrate on discussing the role of France in the much changed equation of European security.

Although both sides are emphasizing that the two leaders get on excellently and fully reflect each other's policy positions, sources here say that M. Mitterrand is in no mood to be pressured about his country's relations with Nato.

According to one well-placed observer, France will resist any plans for restructuring the alliance that Paris considers "go too far" towards turning Nato into an organization dealing with worldwide problems.

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itterrand was sent on his way to the mini-summit with some highly unwelcome opinion polls. His personal support has slipped sharply to below 50 per cent, apparently reflecting widespread unease among the French — above all, among younger people — over the lack of positive leadership from the Elysée Palace in recent months.

With internal feuds still convulsing the Socialist Party and the debate on immigration and racism at its height, M. Mitterrand seems increasingly reluctant to take a firm stand on important issues.

At the same time, the French Government remains unwaveringly opposed to participation in Nato's integrated military structure. According to Elysée Palace sources, the Americans have never made any such request officially and in private they have actually distanced the US from the British campaign, which they consider to be "misaken".

The same sources also insist that there is no reason why the US should not raise objections to the Giscardian defence doctrine that has kept American troops off French soil.

Thus ended the trip to explain the new Kinrossians to the United States Treasury, the International Monetary Fund and the economic zones of the White House. Mr Smith said that he was an "enthusiast" for the G7 process of influencing currency fluctuations and had learnt a great deal about how it worked.

He told his listeners that Labour's "spasm" of objections to the operation of markets had passed. The party had realized, he said, that an economic policy driven by

national considerations would not succeed. He expressed his satisfaction at President Bush's remarks, in an interview with *The Times* on Monday, that any special relationship with Britain will continue under Labour. He said that his talks were marked by a "cordiality" that would not have been present four years ago.

He was careful, however, not to push his luck before US audiences which, while having some differences with Mrs Thatcher over European integration, are essentially more at ease with Tory free market credentials than with Labour economic management, by whatever name it is known.

He refused to be drawn into direct criticism of either the Prime Minister or former President Reagan.

He restricted himself to calling for Britain to be a "vigorous member of the EC". He promised only that Labour would take Britain into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System as long as the entry rate was right, that the move would not be deflationary, and that it was backed by a strong regional policy.

Future visits to spread Labour's economic word are to take place later this year, in a city where "networking" of personal contacts is a prominent source of power. Mr Smith is keen to get his face known. And he is reminded of the recent economists' poll which so greatly preferred him for 11 Downing Street over the present Conservative incumbent.

THE Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr John Smith, tested the language of the Labour Party in Washington yesterday and found that, while US officials did not like the idea of "managed" exchange rates, they were quite happy with "influence" or "ironing out".

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Christian crossfire kills children in Beirut school bus

From A Correspondent, west Beirut

RELENTLESS fighting in Lebanon's civil war caused yet another tragedy yesterday when a school bus carrying children home came under crossfire between rival Christian forces in east Beirut, burning to death its driver and 14 pupils.

Rescue workers could not hold back their tears while evacuating the small charred bodies from the skeleton of a bus that was hit by scores of explosive bullets on the strip of "no man's land" separating the warring forces.

The bus was carrying the children from their west Beirut school, Ecole des Frères Maréyeh, to their homes on the Christian side of town when it suddenly came under the exchange of fire between troops loyal to General Michel Aoun and militiamen under Mr Samir Geagea. A burst of machinegun fire from the militia side hit the bus and set it on fire.

"Nine people were able to leave the bus with injuries and

burns. The rest met with their God," said a Red Cross worker on the scene.

The tragedy occurred soon after a huge explosion ripped through an army base east of Beirut, killing three officers and wounding many others.

The explosion, which is thought to have been caused by sabotage, set fire to and devastated two floors of the building which houses the army's elite "Strike Force", loyal to General Aoun.

The three officers, among them a major, were buried alive under the rubble while many officers and men, including the commander of the "Strike Force", Captain Ahi-Samra, were wounded.

An army spokesman claimed that the blast was set off accidentally while troops were moving ammunition. "Soldiers were moving ammunition confiscated from the militia to one of the bases when a shell exploded, killing two soldiers," the spokesman said without elaborating. The

bombed-out building is situated inside the Defence Ministry compound, which is only a mile away from General Aoun's bunker under the presidential palace of Beirut's Yarzeb suburb.

Soldiers in tanks and armoured personnel carriers immediately threw a strict cordon around the area, preventing journalists and passers-by from approaching and firing off their machine-guns into the air.

The explosion followed two days of fierce clashes in and around the heavily populated areas of Beirut between General Aoun's troops and the Lebanese Forces militia during which two people were killed and three were wounded.

The two sides have been locked in combat since January 31 over supremacy of the Christian enclave in central Lebanon where around a million Christians live. The fighting has so far killed 910 people and wounded 3,500.

Jewish settlers defy court order

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

THE 150 Jewish settlers occupying a Christian pilgrim's hospital in Jerusalem's Old City yesterday defied a ruling by the Jerusalem District Court late on Tuesday ordering them out.

The settlers, who had originally said they would obey any court ruling, claimed the eviction order did not take effect for another three weeks, giving them further time in which to appeal to the Supreme Court.

But the Greek Orthodox Church, which owns the building, said the settlers were finding "one excuse after another" to stay and might have to be forced out by government bailiffs.

Arab residents on Christian Quarter Road put it more bluntly. "We want them out," said Said, an Arab shopkeeper, who sells pottery and carved wooden camels to tourists in the narrow, winding streets of the Old City. "They do not belong here," he added angrily. "They want to take everything over."

At the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate a few hundred yards away, a crowd of Arab youths and girls, many of them schoolchildren, gathered by the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the most venerated shrine in Christendom, and vented their anger by chanting Palestinian nationalist slogans.

Some ran into the Holy Sepulchre, built over the presumed site of Christ's crucifixion and burial, and raised the flag of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

The young protesters had no doubt about who lay

behind the move to establish a Jewish presence in the Christian Quarter: for them the villain of the piece is Ariel (Arik) Sharon, the corpulent and charismatic former general who resigned from the Cabinet two months ago because his views on the Palestinian question were too hard-line even for Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the right-wing Prime Minister, who himself set up a home in the adjacent Muslim quarter three years ago.

The sudden invasion of the mostly Arab Christian Quarter by Jewish settlers has certainly had the effect of bringing Arab Christians and Muslims together, with Palestinian nationalism as a common cause.

But yesterday the settlers – the women in headscarves or berets, the men in white shirts and skullcaps – refused to acknowledge that they have disturbed the status quo on which the fragile equilibrium of Jerusalem depends.

"Our presence here is legitimate," the settlers' spokesman said. "This is normal population diffusion. Jews have the right to live anywhere in Jerusalem."

Tensions remained high in Gaza yesterday as the Strip entered a third day of serious rioting, with schoolchildren burning tyres and throwing stones at troops. A 24-year-old Palestinian youth from Khan Younis refugee camp was shot dead by Israeli troops.

Palestinian deaths in the *intifada* have dropped from one a day in the early days of the revolt to one every three days since the beginning of this year.

According to one theory, the abnormality, known as the A1 allele, might be harder to satisfy than the standard version of the gene. Those with it might therefore feel compelled to consume more alcohol to release more dopamine.

The research focused on abnormalities in the D2 dopamine receptor, a structure shown to be connected to pleasure. Comparing the D2 receptors in the brain tissue of 35 deceased alcoholics and non-alcoholics, researchers found 77 per cent had a distinctive genetic abnormality. A cautious National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism called the finding promising.

According to one theory, the abnormality, known as the A1 allele, might be harder to satisfy than the standard version of the gene. Those with it might therefore feel compelled to consume more alcohol to release more dopamine.

failed to sway the judges with their case that Nagayama was deprived and mentally unstable at the time he committed his month-long shooting spree in 1968.

In *Tears of Ignorance*, the best-selling autobiography he wrote behind bars in 1971, Nagayama blamed "capitalist society" for his downfall, saying his crimes were the product of his childhood poverty and ignorance. Nagayama, a former coffee bar employee, also wrote an award-winning novel in 1984 called *Wooden Bridge*.

In 1968 Nagayama, then aged 19, stole a pistol from an American military base near Tokyo and shot dead four people, two of them during robbery attempts.

The unanimous decision to uphold the death sentence by the four Supreme Court judges will be completed at the end of next week, barring any procedural protests by Nagayama's lawyers, who

which are greater than most places because of sheer numbers.

The deaths were particularly agonizing and by a perverse coincidence most local doctors happened to be locked up in jail at the time for mounting an illegal strike.

They were released several hours after the first screaming victim burst through the doors of the local hospital, which had been virtually closed by the strike. By the time the doctors arrived it was too late to help them: besides the hospital was ill-equipped to cope. Many more people are still dying, and the final toll may well pass 200.

The villagers of Rajpura produced the wedding fare from flour that had been made from wheat newly doused in pesticides. Indian farmers are told never to spray wheat crops in the week before harvesting, but

the guidance is widely ignored. It has been estimated that half the cultivated land of India is sprayed regularly with a variety of chemicals.

India is the biggest manufacturer and consumer of pesticides in South Asia, with 350 companies producing 131 varieties. A government-owned company, Hindustan Insecticides, holds a monopoly on DDT production.

The Rajpura tragedy has highlighted the dangers of placing deadly pesticides in the hands of illiterate farmers who know nothing about the misery they inflict on people or the ravages they impose on the land.

There are those who argue that an illiterate country like India should produce and distribute only the most benign pest control products, but too many powerful interests

Ordeal ends for child hostage



JUBILATION showing on the faces of parents and child as Patrizia Taccella, aged eight, is returned to her home near Verona, Italy, after being held hostage for 78 days.

In the same clothes she was wearing when she was kidnapped while on her way to buy sweets, Patrizia was reunited with her parents on Tuesday as friends and well-wishers thronged the streets around the Taccella home in Stellavola.

Earlier, the GIS special police, equivalent to the SAS, raided a villa near Genoa, freeing Patrizia and arresting three of her captors. Two alleged accomplices were arrested in Turin. Patrizia's father, Signor Imerio Taccella, who owns the Carrera Jeans casual wear company with sales of £300 million a year, and also controls the Fiorucci fashion house, said he considered himself "a very, very lucky man".

The kidnappers had demanded a £10 million ransom, but the authorities had frozen the Taccella family assets in a new policy to stamp out kidnapping.

Kurdish 'timebomb' explodes as Turkey clamps down on rebels

From Christopher Walker, Nusaybin, Turkey

AMONG the sullen, determined and burningly resentful Kurdish customers of the Seven Brothers coffee shop in Nusaybin, a town on the border with Syria, the whispered conversation centred on only one word – the *intifada*.

The sudden transformation of the six-year-old guerrilla war against the Turks for an independent state of Kurdistan into a national uprising, along the lines of that being waged by the Palestinians against the Israelis, has injected new life into the struggle and prompted a fierce Turkish clampdown.

The unpredicted change came last month when teenagers in headscarves and stone-throwing local women took up the fight with the security forces after shooting incidents with crowds. Then the shutters clanged down on tens of thousands of shops in organized protest strikes in a mirror-image of the campaign that has become a way of life in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"If the Government continues to deny us rights and democracy, then all our guns will be out and our women and children will be on the streets night and day," said one customer of the coffee shop who refused to give even his first name for fear of reprisals.

"What have we got to lose? Look around this room, there is probably not one man here with a proper job."

The wooden ceiling of the painted-lit cafe was crudely red, yellow and green, the colours of the banned Kurdish flag, an inspired piece of interior decor which recently earned the owner a severe beating in Turkish custody.

But the colours had remained, as had his readiness to voice angry complaints about the Government's refusal to allow Turkey's 10 million Kurds to use Kurdish names, to play Kurdish music, read Kurdish papers or even to enjoy recognition as a national minority.

They are known instead as "mountain Turks" although many do not speak Turkish and have now begun rallying

in ever greater numbers behind the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), which launched its bloody campaign against "feudalism and colonialism" in 1984.

Many of its fighters are trained in camps in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in Lebanon and their charismatic leader, Mr Abdalrah Akalan (known as "Apo"), lives under Syrian protection in Damascus. But Turkey's recent temporary diversion for its own purposes of the waters of the Euphrates river has reduced the willingness of the Syrians to co-operate against the guerrilla group.

The conflict which has already claimed some 2,100 lives has forced the authorities to impose draconian new curbs on press coverage. Under emergency regulations announced last week, publishing houses can be closed for printing damaging articles on the Kurdish conflict and swinging fines of up to £100 million Turkish lire (£25,000) may be imposed.

Kurds can also be subjected to internal exile at the whim of the regional governor and all media reports of the conflict must first be "co-ordinated" with the interior Ministry.

Even before the crackdown Mr Ismail Besikci, a respected sociologist who had spent nine years in jail since 1971 for books pointing out ethnic differences between Kurds and Turks, was arrested again for writing a book entitled *Kurdistan, an International Colony*.

Staff on the left-wing magazine *Towards 2000* had been

sentenced on a number of occasions for Kurdish coverage. An August 1987 issue of the magazine was confiscated by police for reprinting words spoken publicly 66 years ago by Kemal Ataturk, the father of the Turkish Republic, on the subject of autonomy for Turkey's Kurds.

Since the decree, a number of the publishing houses in Istanbul were visited by police and so far the contracts to print 18 periodicals deemed in the past to have shown some sympathy to the Kurds have been cancelled.

Condemning the new measures as undemocratic and a violation of human rights, Mr Suleyman Demirel, leader of the conservative True Path Party, said: "If this is not censorship, what is? Our citizens will have to get to know the truth from the BBC or other foreign media. Such harsh measures were not even imposed in wartime."

Outside the dingy coffee house, the Turkish army lorry patrolling menacingly with a machine gun mounted on the rear and the tangible feeling of repression and hatred were reminders that the melting of the snows had seen the mounting of yet another PKK spring offensive. But this year in the battle for control of a chunk of land half the size of Italy things have been different: 55 people were killed last month compared with only 16 in the first three months of 1989.

The 1990 death toll of civilians, guerrillas and soldiers is fast approaching 100, with hardly a day passing



US Congressmen shrug off scandal

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

MR BARNEY Frank, the homosexual at the centre of last year's most sordid Capitol Hill sex scandal, is to seek a sixth term as a Congressman from Massachusetts, he announced this week.

He has raised \$31,000 (£55,500) since January, giving him a campaign fund of some \$260,000, and is optimistic of success, apparently unshaken by the fact that his astonishing behaviour is still being investigated by the powerful House ethics committee.

Barely seven months ago the *Washington Times* revealed that for two years the Indian Government had allowed soft-drink manufacturers to use a known cancer-causing agent called BVO in nearly all the nation's mass-selling soft drinks with household names like Lipton and Campa Orange.

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In 1988 manufacturers were given

Pretoria remains hopeful of ANC accord

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

CONFICTING policy statements by President de Klerk of South Africa, and Mr Nelson Mandela, the deputy chairman of the African National Congress, preface tough exchanges when they begin formal peace talks early next month, but senior Cabinet ministers remain optimistic of progress towards broader negotiations on constitutional reforms.

With Mr Mandela calling for continued pressure on Pretoria, and Mr de Klerk bluntly warning the ANC to tone down its rhetoric, the atmosphere seems hardly conducive to compromise.

The President's firm rejection of black majority rule may measure African whites, but it is touted to increase national blacks who will settle for nothing less.

Mr Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister for Constitutional Development and the chief government negotiator, believes, however, that full-scale negotiations may begin before the end of the year and that a new political system could be introduced within two years.

Speaking in Washington, Mr Viljoen appeared to base his optimism on a high personal regard for Mr Mandela, whom he described as "impressive" and firmly committed to peaceful solutions. But he added, there was no doubt that the ANC leader was under heavy pressure from young activists who did not share his enthusiasm for a negotiated settlement.

Confrontational politics and related violence sweeping black communities will be the principal issues at the preliminary three-day meeting between the Government and the ANC beginning in Cape Town on May 2.

Government sources, meanwhile, are not unduly concerned by the flexing of political muscles, and do not share the view that this represents a hardening of attitudes.

"Given the very difficult background against which the exercise is taking place, what is happening now is to be expected," one source said.

"We believe there is room for manoeuvre on all sides, since the imperatives for compromise are greater than anything else. The biggest problem is the persistent violence, which is having a profoundly negative effect," the source added.

The ANC is under increasing pressure to renounce its military strategy, even from its sympathizers. The Rev Alan Boesak, the president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and a prominent anti-apartheid activist, has joined the peace lobby by urging the ANC to take a "moral initiative" by forswearing violence.

By rejecting violence, the ANC would place a moral obligation on the security forces to follow suit, he said.

While Mr de Klerk and Mr Mandela prepare to talk peace, conflict is deepening between the ANC and the conservative Inkatha movement led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of the KwaZulu tribal homeland, who is agitating to secure his place at the negotiating table.

The South African Youth Congress, announcing its intention yesterday to dissolve and merge with the ANC Youth League, accused Chief Buthelezi of sending Inkatha members to Israel for military training, claiming to have videotaped "evidence" to support its claim.

Pesticide misuse brings harvest of death to India

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

MISUSE of pesticides by farmers who cannot read accompanying instructions is inflicting death and deformity in India.

The death toll after peasants dined on defecates at a wedding feast in the northern village of Rajpura rose to 150 yesterday – all victims, it now transpires, of pesticides.

Farmers in India lavish their crops with chemicals on the simple assumption that two doses must be twice as good as one. By their ignorance they inflict horrible deaths and terrible deformities on countless numbers of people.

The Uttar Pradesh village of Rajpura, grimy and poor, has suffered a tragedy that is awesome even by the standards of Indian tragedies.

which are greater than most places because of sheer numbers.

The deaths were particularly agonizing and by a perverse coincidence most local doctors happened to be locked up in jail at the time for mounting an illegal strike.

They were released several hours after the first screaming victim burst through the doors of the local hospital, which had been virtually closed by the strike. By the time the doctors arrived it was too late to help them: besides the hospital was ill-equipped to cope. Many more people are still dying, and the final toll may well pass 200.

The villagers of Rajpura produced the wedding fare from flour that had been made from wheat

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Shakespeare on the shelf

Bernard Richards

Shakespeare's birthday next week will be celebrated with due reverence, but do his works genuinely hold the attention of the modern audience? I suspect they are watched mainly with boredom, irritation, puzzlement, anxiety or indifference, rather than pleasure, except at those moments when a musical routine or a bit of farcical "business" is injected. Directors have been revamping his plays to make them acceptable to audiences more readily at home with *Dallas* or *Spitting Image*.

The phenomenon is not new. Shakespeare has often been adapted, but in the past the changes were more readily admitted: today directors like to pretend they give the essence of Shakespeare, and their innovations are matters of production style.

Without wishing vigorously to applaud attempts to make him palatable to ill-educated and inattentive audiences, the fact has to be faced that he does pose problems. All of the plays contain obscure words, and even more treacherous are words which sound familiar but now have completely different meanings.

Many parts of his plays puzzle audiences not only the notorious linguistic cruxes and the arcane allusions, but the parts that depend on knowledge of local customs. Think of the special knowledge about wedding arrangements one needs to make much headway with *Measure for Measure*, or the medieval attitudes to marriage that make *The Taming of the Shrew* so intractable. Many people approaching Shakespeare get most excitement from seeing their own feelings about life confirmed. Shakespeare does make timeless statements, but most of what he expresses is in relation to local conditions.

The trouble with treating Shakespeare as if he were a contemporary of ours is that it must involve productions in anomalies and even incoherencies, especially if no cutting or rewriting takes place. Modern-dress productions provide many examples. Adrian Noble's updated *Comedy of Errors* in 1983 was fast-moving and engaging, but although the policeman was a Keystone Cop in blue, the lines referring to his "buff" uniform remained. The RSC *Merry Wives* with its mock-Tudor and hairdryers had a Falstaff looking something like Jimmy Edwards in plus-fours, yet absurdly, instead of calling for a gin and tonic, as he should have done, he went on asking for a sack.

Michael Bogdanov's notorious 1978 *Taming of the Shrew* provided Petrucchio with a loud motorbike. Fair enough (well, fair enough with massive reservations), but what a total nonsense it was to retain the speech about his arrival at church on a broken-down horse. That speech should

either have been dropped or rewritten to describe a clapped-out motorbike with defective silencer.

However, not many producers

have the courage to rewrite, not merely because even the stupid ones realize they are not up to Shakespeare's standard, but because rewriting emphasizes with startling intensity that they are not giving us Shakespeare.

The trouble with updating is that usually it takes place in a cultural void, for example in an RSC *Midsummer Night's Dream*, at the point when Hippolyta is reminiscing about her earlier hunting days: "I was with Hercules and Cadmus once. When in a wood of Crete they paid the bear with bounds of Sparta." It is extraordinarily beautiful and resonant poetry, but it was spoken by a woman wearing a cocktail dress straight out of a Noel Coward play. How could such a figure have had one foot in the mythological world of Hercules and Cadmus? The visual signals were all wrong.

These absurd and baseless fantasies can never compete for audience attention with a good modern comedy that is coherent and closely observed in its language and social landscape. Life, of a kind, is injected in modernization, but not true vitality.

Producing with antiquarian zeal may be a better course. It is curious that there has not been a full-blown theatrical equivalent of the revival of ancient music. That movement has had its oblige lunacy, but on the whole its case has been made and it has achieved some spectacular successes. There is room for an equivalent movement in the theatre, which is not to say that antiquarian performances should have a monopoly. For instance, I have never seen *The Taming of the Shrew* produced as an ambitious manager might have done in the early 17th century, which surely could be very exciting.

I have never seen a production in which boy actors act alongside adults; surely the BBC could have shown some boldness and enterprise by trying it at least once. I have never seen a candle-lit production of a play from this period, but friends tell me that the effect is electrifying, and not only on the local fire-officer.

It is, I think, preferable to play down Shakespeare's universality rather than exaggerate it; he is, after all, only sparsomically universal, and then not necessarily at his most interesting. We should desanctify Shakespeare, at least temporarily, and cease to regard him both as one of our contemporaries and as a "timeless monument". We should accept that he is not readily intelligible, especially in our desacralized world. And then we might stand a chance of breathing fresh life into him.

The author is a fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford.

CLEMENT FREUD

It is the most English of scenes: the natural amphitheatre, the stage of lush green swathes of turf punctuated by well-constructed brushwood fences. Around us, performing a genteel fandango, are mounted huntsmen wearing pink coats, unluckily-looking amateur jockeys in multi-coloured racing silks, men dressed in jodhpurs, rainproof jackets, rat-catcher's hats; women in blue trilbies, the trendiest headgear of 1990.

In the car park (admission £10), a couple of thousand vehicles are parked in immaculate lines supervised by hard men in bowler hats and the habit to command. The car boots are open, have spilt on to the grass assorted camp chairs and tables; someone unearths a Thermos and produces hot sausages. Another contains oxtail soup laced with sherry; there is sloe gin and whisky, corned beef sandwiches and scotch eggs, the last of the simnel cake, quiche and pâté, much supermarket wine in two-litre cartons and "Goodness isn't that Jeremy with the Dunstan woman, over there by the girl with the blue felt hat?" "Which one? They're all wearing blue felt hats." Gossip thrives, OK.

Stroll around the marques and you discover the tradesmen: a retailer of Range Rovers and BMWs, creating the impression that the market in used cars starts at £24,355. Here a sadder, there a genteel outfitter specializing in leisurewear (such as blue trilbies). The inevitable "green" couple who sell baked potatoes from a cast-iron mobile oven. An old bloke has put on a boater expressly to carve steaming joints of mahogany-coloured roast beef, slices of which his wife, wearing surgical gloves, places inside soft brown baps, price £1.95, mustard or horseradish? Two sisters sell home-made fudge and cakes ... but the cakes were all sold before the first race.

There is a huge beer tent bulging with youths lightly dressed in best bitter and every few minutes the public address system, manned by a frustrated newscaster, announces the discovery of yet another boy called Nigel who is being held in the secretary's tent awaiting collection. "Nigel", says the

announcer, "is wearing blue trousers and a red windcheater", possibly in case dad remembers the clothes even if he has forgotten the name.

Many children are maimed; the announcer waits until he has a clutch and then lists all their names and descriptions. I believe people go to point-to-points expressly to dispose of their children, then leg it out of the country; it surprises me the clerks of courses still let them in, let alone let them in for free.

Within this atmosphere of overall gentility interspersed only by the occasional trader, there is a faction of hard-headed businessmen who arrive early on the scene bearing satchels inscribed Honest Fred, Trust Harry, and Alf Always Pays the bookmakers, who consider Easter Monday to be their benefit, their flag day; they actually wanted to rename Easter Monday "The Feast of St Ladbrooke" — though to be fair, it is not the market leaders but the minnows of the profession whose trade this day is fruitful and multiplying and does not bear too close investigation.

On a normal racing day, there might be two or three meetings attracting perhaps 8,000 people. On Monday there were five meetings on the flat, 12 under National Hunt rules and a dozen point-to-points; the total crowd approached 200,000, of whom some 80 per cent are what nice people term "innocent" or "inexperienced" and bookmakers call "mugs".

Why is it that children are taught mathematics at great inconvenience but in later life are unable to determine whether 5.4 is a better price than 11.87? (It is not.)

What is lacking in people who have the competitive spirit to back one horse to run faster than the others, yet place their bet with a bookmaker who is showing the selection at even money when the man on the adjoining pitch is offering 6-4?

I won on the fifth race, backing the outsider of four at 2-1. As for the bookmakers, they that outlived this day and came safe home (which would have taken a very long time if the M25 was involved) shall count their notes and rub their hands in glee and say this lot I got on the bank holiday.

Passports for a surprise holiday

Knowing that few MPs can resist a few extra days' holiday, the whips have bought off Conservative rebels who were expected to join Norman Tebbit's Hong Kong passport revolt tonight. They have been told that a blind eye will be turned if they take an extra week's holiday and don't turn up at Westminster until next week — so abstaining in the controversial vote. This is a tactic of last resort, and illustrates the concern with which the Tory high command regards the threatened revolt. Tim Joannan, MP for Thurrock and one of the rebels, confirms that the whips have been engaged in frantic activity. "If you were known to be intending to vote against the Bill, they offered an extended Easter recess. They were effectively offering an extra week's holiday from the daily chores of Westminster." However, Tebbit has employed some tricks of his own to keep the whips at bay. Eighty MPs signed a letter of protest to the Prime Minister, but he refused to read it. Tebbit declined to show the list of rebels to the whips, so leaving them unsure of whom to tempt, and with the possibility that they may have bought off some of their own supporters. We shall find out tonight how many stay away.

Curtain down

The Royal Opera House, which yesterday announced its 1990-91 season, faces an ever-growing possibility that it

John Walden urges Britain to restore confidence by standing up to China

Stop kowtowing over Hong Kong

The Government claims that by giving British passports to 250,000 people in Hong Kong, it will restore the confidence of all six million. As MPs prepare to do battle on the issue today, they should consider why Mrs Thatcher's once universally acclaimed policy on the future of Hong Kong is in tatters.

Before Parliament authorized the Government to sign the Joint Declaration with China in December 1984, ministers gave repeated assurances that the agreement was acceptable to the people of Hong Kong and would guarantee them a secure future under Chinese sovereignty. They further gave the impression that before transfer of sovereignty in 1997, Britain would devolve the power to manage the internal affairs of the colony to a representative government elected by the Hong Kong people. Parliament was told that China agreed to this, and China itself announced publicly that after 1997, "Hong Kong people would rule Hong Kong" with "a high degree of autonomy".

It was argued that once the people of Hong Kong had been

given a representative government, they would be able to resist any attempt by Peking to impose Chinese-style rule. In such ways, Parliament's reservations about placing millions of British subjects under the control of a totalitarian regime with a bad record on human rights were allayed.

Writing in *The Times* on April 15 last year, I explained how within a year of Parliament's endorsement of the agreement, Foreign Office officials had secretly agreed to China's demand that Britain slow down its plans for democratic reform.

The collapse of confidence in the future of Hong Kong was precipitated not by the tragic events in Tiananmen Square in June 1989, but by Britain's failure to stand up to China in November 1985 and to secure the political safeguards written into the Joint Declaration. The brain drain from Hong Kong was already a serious problem when the Foreign Affairs Committee visited the colony in March last year. Tiananmen Square then injected a new element of panic.

The passport package was one

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HELP FROM ONE'S FRIENDS

However the Commons divides today on the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill, those Conservatives who support it believe that its proposal to give British passports to 50,000 Hong Kong families honours Britain's surviving obligation to the colony. They believe that their constituents would tolerate no significant addition to the 225,000 individuals encompassed by the Bill. Opinion polls suggest that even this number is too high for a majority to welcome the prospect.

These are facts of domestic political life. Yet the practical help which Britain can afford to Hong Kong in the years before the expiry of the lease must extend beyond this, and urgently. Mr Francis Maude, the minister with responsibility for Hong Kong, has gone to considerable lengths to persuade friendly governments to issue some of their own passports to Hong Kong citizens. So far only Singapore has made a specific offer to take up to 25,000 families.

The attitude of the European Community has been cautious. France, West Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg have agreed in principle to devise schemes like the British one, but are waiting to see whether the Nationality Bill gets through the Commons in an unamended form. With millions of other refugees seeking asylum round the world, Britain's friends are offering the people of Hong Kong scant sympathy, lukewarm until there is a visible threat to the colony's civil rights. In what promises to be a decade of widespread refugee pressure, few want to know about the apparently prosperous citizens of this far-off enclave.

This indifference, though unsurprising, is unfortunate. If Britain's European neighbours continue to treat Hong Kong as a British domestic concern, they will be taking a considerable risk with their own immigration problems. A large proportion of a mass exodus of refugees may arrive on their doorstep towards the end of this decade with British passports entitling them to Europe-wide settlement. High unemployment in Britain in 1997 and a labour shortage in Germany could

make Britain's problem today into Germany's problem tomorrow.

If Hong Kong is thus already a European issue, why is this not more widely recognized by other Community members? The answer is partly that they are sick of Britain's preoccupation with its post-imperial legacy and, ominously, do not regard Europe-wide political cooperation as meaning anything unless their own interests might benefit thereby. The Hong Kong question is no longer a colonial matter. Under the terms of the 1992 initiative, any migrant into a member state is by definition a migrant into the Community as a whole.

It is understandable that the French and the Germans, both of whom are presently grappling with the consequences of past and future immigration, would not wish to provoke domestic opposition by issuing large numbers of passports to Hong Kong. Paris and Bonn are, however, quite capable of grasping that the object of the exercise is a deterrent one. Germany, in particular, has a duty to reciprocate Britain's readiness to accept as citizens of the Community millions of East Germans and other ethnic Germans from the East. A few Hong Kong businessmen might do wonders for the vast rust belt which German reunification will incorporate into the Community.

Hong Kong is an oasis of Western values in Asia. Its way of life deserves to be defended by all the diplomatic means at the West's disposal as a bridgehead of liberty inside the People's Republic of China. A few thousand passports, held by Hong Kong citizens and issued by all 12 Community countries, would greatly strengthen London's bargaining position vis-à-vis Peking. China would certainly think twice before provoking the whole European Community.

Those MPs who vote against the Bill — Labour as well as Conservative — should know that success for their obstruction would spell the end of any hope of real help from Britain's friends. Little Englanders, Labour and Tory, should be well satisfied with that; others must surely think again.

JUSTICE FOR ALL

As the Courts and Legal Services Bill begins its journey through the House of Commons, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashmorn, is entitled to much personal satisfaction. It is one of the greatest reforms of the legal profession for a century. He has doubtless fended off sustained efforts to subvert the Bill by those who felt their vested interests threatened. For once an important item of radical legislation has reached the Commons with its central purpose intact — the freeing of a market in professional services from restrictive and expensive practices.

MPs on both sides will know that extensive consultation went on before the Bill was even drafted, resulting in significant concessions. The controversies were never party political, in spite of some half-hearted attempts from the Opposition to make them so. This is all the more remarkable in that the Bill's underlying philosophy, which survived from Green Paper to House of Lords Bill, was an attack on an entrenched closed shop. Apart from a few lawyers, we are all free marketeers now.

The original Green Paper was greeted by some judges and barristers as if Lord Mackay had made common cause with Shakespeare's mob and cried, "The first we do: let's kill all the lawyers." As the lobbyists for the Bar have found to their chagrin, a large number of otherwise conventional Britons have approached the Mackay reforms in much the same spirit. The louder the lawyers howled, the more insistently the public called for reform. Lord Mackay can reasonably regard himself as a popular hero.

That said, the Bill has had a few of its sharpest teeth filed down, largely because the barristers did have sensible if unexecuting points to make in the course of their damage limitation exercise. The Bar may not be popular, but it did establish that the Lord Chancellor's original proposals could have put at risk the survival of courtroom advocacy as an independent feature of the litigation system. The Bar Council now feels this future is secure.

SEPARATE TABLES

British Aerospace has landed itself in a dispute after introducing a single all-comers restaurant on its site at Hatfield in Hertfordshire. Progress towards lunchtime democracy took a wrong turn when it offered its striped-collar staff £400-a-year more for having to eat there.

The reason, says BAe, was that managers had suffered a loss in subsidy through the closure of their old dining room. Shop floor workers, not surprisingly, have demanded the same amount of compensation for having to lunch with the likes of chief executives. They have withdrawn their custom from the restaurant until they receive satisfaction.

BAe has got *œuf Benedict* on its face, but at least it has moved in a positive direction, along with an increasing number of other companies. Under the influence of their overseas competitors, notably the Japanese and the Americans, they are gradually erasing the caste system which has kept employees apart at mealtimes.

Those companies which still cling to the old practice of having a works canteen and a waitress-service dining room (at Hatfield they used to have five separate eating places) usually justify it on one of two grounds. Shop floor workers, it is argued, sometimes wear dirty overalls. These leave a fine patina on the chairs, which is a cause of unease for wearers of double-breasted pin-stripe suits (or for that matter two-piece designer costumes).

The other line turns on lunchtime conversation. As executives like to talk shop over their *escalope viennoise*, the presence of somebody who actually works in the shop could be restricting. It is not easy, for example, for the personnel director to encourage on the latest crisis in the car pool when a couple of drivers are parked at the next table. The Transport and

To what extent those fears were ever justified will now never be tested.

The judges were less content with the concessions they secured from Lord Mackay, in particular over their right to supervise the discipline of those who practice advocacy in the higher courts when solicitors were finally admitted to right of audience. The Lord Chancellor wanted the consumer to be well represented in the supervisory mechanism, and he has had his way. The judges were offered some adjustment to the rubric, to safeguard the principle that this important — though somewhat obscure — element in the judicial process should not be subject to Government dictation.

Lord Mackay's approach has been informed by a desire to make justice more accessible to the common man. The derestriction of legal services will increase competition, efficiency and client choice, and therefore offer better value for money. The barristers' monopoly of litigation in the higher courts will end; suitably qualified solicitors will be eligible for appointment as High Court judges; solicitors will lose their monopoly of conveyancing. The legal profession will in general come out of its comfort zone. There will be much more flexibility to adapt the provision of legal services to the demands of the market, with the dismantling of some of the traditional, irrational and protectionist demarcations between solicitors and barristers, and indeed between lawyers and other professions.

The Bill will make it possible for the first time in England for some legal fees to be agreed on a contingency basis, but without the abuses that have brought contingency fees into disrepute in the United States. None the less the high cost of legal action will remain a barrier to justice for many. Once the Courts and Legal Services Bill is safely through the Commons, Lord Mackay might apply his formidable ingenuity to an equally radical reform of the legal aid system.

Both objections are easily demolished. Restrictions could be placed on dirty boiler suits. One need not insist, as the Garrick does, on collar and tie, although cleanliness is not an unreasonable requirement. Nor should anyone find it too severe a penance to avoid sensitive "shop" talk. Neighbours at lunch might actually prefer a little light diversion in the short break from the clutter of their desks.

Some of these more rigid class distinctions are an inheritance from the war and National Service. The Army, even on exercises in West Germany, still tries to maintain a measure of decorum, with a special tent for the officers set apart from the sergeants' mess and the other ranks' cookhouse. Some old-fashioned companies still betray these military antecedents by calling their executives' dining room "the mess".

Whatever the inconveniences of switching to more egalitarian habits, the advantages far outweigh them. Together with company cars and separate lavatories, the existence of a "Management Only" dining room creates a division which lasts throughout the day. The one error to be avoided by firms moving towards catering democracy is in levelling down rather than up. If they provided tablecloths for everyone, with wooden chairs and carpets on the floor, they would not need to compensate their managers for having to endure communal eating.

The proof of this particular pudding is in the eating. We strongly suspect that the firm whose employees eat together also grows together and profits together. If we hear of one that does not, we shall sell its shares.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Light on Middle East nuclear aims

From Mr D. A. V. Fischer

Sir, You reported (April 5, 7) that Egypt was co-operating with Argentina and possibly Iraq and Pakistan in building a 20 megawatt nuclear reactor and "that there were strong indications that Egypt had joined the secret list of Islamic nations close to achieving a nuclear capability." The facts of

largest recipient of US aid and it is manifestly improbable that the Egyptian Government would jeopardize this assistance, as it certainly would if Egypt were to try to acquire nuclear capability.

DAVID FISCHER (Assistant Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency, 1977-81), 15 Willow Walk, Cambridge. April 11.

From the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Sir, With reference to the report entitled "Egypt close to achieving a nuclear capability" (April 5, 7), I wish to point out that Egypt has no ambition of achieving a nuclear weapon capability.

Egypt signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on the first day it was opened for signature on July 1, 1968. It had even participated actively in the Geneva negotiations of the NPT as a member of the conference of the 18-nation committee on disarmament in Geneva in the years 1965-68.

Egypt, as a party to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, is required to place under IAEA safeguards all nuclear material and hence all nuclear plant in the country. The only nuclear plant in Egypt is a small research reactor.

Inq also has a small, aging Soviet research reactor. The large reactor she bought from France at the end of the 1970s was destroyed in the Israeli bombing raid in 1981 and Iraq had been unable to replace it. She would hardly be in a position to help Egypt construct a 20 megawatt plant.

A reactor by itself cannot make a nuclear weapon. A station planning to acquire nuclear capability would have to build a reprocessing plant to separate the plutonium from the reactor's spent fuel. Egypt has no such plant and even if she wished to do so she would find it extremely difficult to obtain one from the few countries that manufacture such plants.

Aside from the technical facts and from Egypt's respect for her obligations under the non-proliferation treaty she is the second

party, backed by a transcript from one of several trials in France of drug dealers caught with a shipload of drugs from Lebanon.

Only a few journalists have acknowledged the extraordinary popularity which General Aoun enjoys amongst ordinary people in the free enclave of Lebanon. I found this particularly striking among the people I met in the enclave, including a group of Muslims and several people in areas dominated by the "LF Militia", a Christian force who are now backing the Syrian puppet regime in a bloody war against General Aoun.

On a visit to the General in February I was impressed by the weight of evidence his narcotics bureau have amassed of the involvement of the Syrian Government and Syrian security forces in developing the massive drug operation in the Bekaa, which Barbara Amiel refers to. I recently submitted a video on this to the House of Commons Library.

I did not know how to answer when one frightened group of civilians in an LF-controlled area asked me: "Why is the whole world against Michel Aoun? He is our last chance".

Yours faithfully,

JULIAN BRAZIER, House of Commons. April 12.

Faith in the media

From Commander S. H. Stone, RN (ret'd)

Sir, Your leader, "Freedom of expression" (April 9), rightly emphasised the role of a free press in the preservation of the liberties of the majority" and properly warned of the danger posed by public apathy to the erosion of the freedom of the media in contemporary British society. No attempt was made, however, to consider the cause of the indifference.

The news media do indeed exist to serve their readers, viewers, and listeners (whether or not at a profit) and precisely for that reason to say that they must be free to report public events faithfully tells only part of the story. They also have a *duty* to do so.

Many people have found the reporting of events in which they have been involved inaccurate and misleading. There is thus a feeling that if the media can misrepresent the events one knows about, how little can one depend on them for accurate information on the events of which one would otherwise know nothing.

Nor is this the only factor. The

tendency of some elements of the media to concern themselves excessively with citizens' private affairs, again inaccurately, has given rise to a number of successful libel cases. The abuse of the freedom of expression does nothing to instil confidence, and I venture to suggest that the high level of damages awarded in these cases might be indicative of a general distrust in (if not contempt for) the media.

Less attention to intrusion on individual privacy and more time and effort spent on ensuring that public events are accurately, as well as fearlessly, reported might go some way to restoring the public's faith in the media, with a consequent increase in willingness to defend their freedom of expression. Yours faithfully,

S. H. STONE (Home Bursar), Exeter College, Oxford.

Jail overcrowding

From Lady Plat of Writtle, FEng

Sir, Lord Windlesham's letter (April 15) evoked my wholehearted agreement in his insistence that remand prisoners should be kept separate from sentenced prisoners.

At present the Government is engaged in the process of decommissioning mental institutions to enable their inmates to live more normal lives in the community. They provide secure accommodation.

Why cannot they be removed to make them suitable for those on remand?

Surely that could be completed

more quickly than the building of new prisons. After the recent riots it has become an even more urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

PLATT OF WITITLE,

Greenbury House, Writtle Green, Essex.

April 15.

Trains to suit needs

From Mr Simon Hardwick

Sir, The fact that British Rail would not sell me a ticket on Maundy Thursday morning to travel home to Tawton later that day, without a seat reservation, the key events in the progress of the battle inscribed. This would have been the most illustrious admiral, but also, in the same scenario, his most famous victory.

Let us hope that this can be done in good time before 2005.

Yours faithfully,

GILES BINNEY,

Oak Down, Lower Durford Wood, Petersfield, Hampshire.

April 6.

Concern in Hong Kong unabated

From Mr D. A. White

Sir, With the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill the Government is at least trying to do something to give a key section of Hong Kong people the confidence to stay in Hong Kong. As a British citizen, however, I am sad to reflect that my wife, a Hong Kong-born Chinese, would have been far better off marrying a local lawyer, accountant, or engineer than marrying me.

Were that other husband duty to qualify for British nationality under the proposed scheme, his wife would automatically become a British citizen. She would not have to speak English. She would simply obtain her passport by virtue of being the spouse of a newly-created British citizen.

I, on the other hand, have always been a British citizen. Yet my wife will be granted no such privileges. She must spend at least three years naturalising by living in England and the effects of the immigration rules is that I must be there with her; this irrespective of the fact that our livelihood is derived from Hong Kong and we would like to stay. Worse still, if I leave the naturalised, she is treated as a complete stranger to the country, with no credit for her position as the widow of a British citizen. She must spend five years in naturalising.

When considering the second reading of the Bill, the members of the House of Commons could perhaps consider whether that is right. Yours sincerely,

DAVID A. WHITE, 15A Albion Court, 99 Caine Road, Hong Kong.

Mandela concert

From Mr P. A. Lightfoot

Sir, Your leader (April 16) suggests that I and the thousands of others who roared out a welcome to Nelson Mandela at Wembley had, prior to his release, been demanding that Mrs Thatcher "do something about Mandela" (your quotation marks), as if Britain still ruled that continent.

You do our education an injustice. Whereas those somewhat less enthusiastic about Mr Mandela mourn the loss of whatever grip over Africa Britain once had, I merely demanded, and still do demand, Mrs Thatcher's full support for the established international guidelines on trade with South Africa (any British responsibility for which she rushed to relax as soon as the release was announced), as well as her use of whatever "special relationship" — which is presumably like the recently-strained Anglo-American relationship — she thinks Britain has with Pretoria to bring about the release and the still urgently needed democratic society there.

Yours faithfully,

HAROLD SOREF,

20 Meriden Court, Chelsea Manor Street, SW3.

From the Reverend D. Clifford Robinson

Sir, I write, not to comment on the visit of Mr Nelson Mandela to our shores, but simply to express a feeling of revulsion at press and television pictures of a robed bishop, albeit elderly, giving a clenched-fist salute.

We have seen quite enough

clenched fists being shaken belligerently from the roofs of shattered prisons. I hope no other bishop, near or far, will emulate this obscenity.

Yours sincerely,

D. CLIFFORD ROBINSON, 5 Wedge Woods, 34 Beechwood Avenue, Coventry, West Midlands.

recognition that to dishonour the name of God is as serious a matter in the eyes of the State as contempt for the laws of man.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN TILLER,

The Canon's House, 3 St John Street, Hereford.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE April 18: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, this evening visited the Windsor and Eton Football Club.

KENSINGTON PALACE April 18: The Princess of Wales opened the annual drug conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland which was held at Hutton Hall, Hutton, Lancashire.

Subsequently Her Royal Highness visited GEC Alsthom Traction Ltd, Strand Road, Preston, Lancashire.

Afterwards The Princess of Wales visited the Riversway Docklands Development, Preston.

Finally Her Royal Highness visited the TFL Group, Interior Designers, Riversway, Preston.

The Princess of Wales was received by Mr Simon Towneley, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Lancashire.

Today's royal engagements

QUEEN ELIZABETH The Queen Mother will attend the Colditz Association reunion at the Imperial War Museum at 12.15. The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the Guinness Trust, will attend a centenary luncheon at Marwell Hall, Old Broad Street, EC2, at 1.15.

Prince Edward will attend a screening of *Odette* at the National Film Theatre at 6.00 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Herbert Wilcox.

Princess Alexandra will open St Mary's House, a home for the elderly, run by the Grace and Compassion Benedictines, Preston Park Avenue, Brighton, at 2.00; and the new convalescent block of the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund at Littlehampton, West Sussex, at 4.00.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Christian Ehrenberg, biologist and explorer, Delitzsch, Germany, 1795; Lucien Lévy-Bruhl, philosopher, Paris, 1857; Gertulio Vargas, president of Brazil, 1930-45, 1951-54; São Bento, 1883; Richard Hughes, novelist, Weybridge, Surrey, 1900.

DEATHS: Robert II, king of Scotland, 1371-90; Duncald, Ayrshire, 1390; Philipp Melanchthon, theologian and Reformer, Wittenberg (?), Germany, 1560; Paolo Veronese, painter, Verona, 1588; Thomas

Miss Alexandra Loyd and Lieutenant-Commander Patrick Jephson RN were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE April 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of the Girl Guides Association, was present this afternoon at the launch of the new uniforms at Central Hall, Westminster.

The Lady Juliet Townsend was in attendance.

THATCHETT HOUSE LODGE April 18: Princess Alexandra was present this evening at a Piano Recital by Miss Jo Lee Sub, in aid of St Loye's College for Training People for Employment (Exeter), at St James's Palace, London SW1.

Mrs Peter Afia was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales will visit Pakistan in September 1990 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Finally Her Royal Highness visited the TFL Group, Interior Designers, Riversway, Preston.

The Princess of Wales was received by Mr Simon Towneley, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Lancashire.

Sackville, 1st Earl of Dorset, poet and statesman, London, 1608; Christina, Queen of Sweden 1644-55, 1669; Nicholas Saunderson, mathematician, Sowthorpe, Cambs, 1739; George Gordon Byron, 6th Baron Byron, Mississipi, Greece, 1824; Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaufort, prime minister 1868-74-80, London, 1881; Charles Darwin, physician, Nobel laureate 1903, Paris, 1906; Hugo Winkler, archaeologist, Berlin, 1913; Konrad Adenauer, 1st Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany 1949-63, Rhondorf, 1967.

The War of American Independence began with the defeat of the British at Lexington, 1775.

Birthdays today

The Most Rev Luigi Barbaro, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, 68; Miss Sue Barker, tennis player, 34; Mr Algy Cluff, chairman, Cluff Oil, 50; Mr Tim Curry, actor, 46; Mr Glynn Edwards, former chairman, CEGFR, 69; Mr Trevor Francis, footballer, 36; Sir Andrew Gilchrist, diplomat, 80; Sir John Griffin, QC, 87; Mr S.C. Harpaly, sculptor, 63; Mr Justice Henry, 59; Dr John Horlock, vice-chancellor, Open University, 62; Mr Dudley Moore, actor and composer, 55; Mr Murray Perahia, pianist, 43; Mr Richard Phelps, penatologist, 29; Mr Justice Roch, 56; Michel Roux, chef and restaurateur, 49; Professor A.W. Wilkinson, paediatrician, 76.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.M. Radway and Donna Sibilla Tomacelli Filomarino

The engagement is announced between John Mailer, elder son of Mr J.S. Radway, and Judith, Marchioness of Linlithgow, of Cincinnati, USA, and Sibilla Maria, younger daughter of Don Ruccardo and Donna Irene Tomacelli Filomarino Dei Principi Di Bonano, of Naples, Italy.

Mr N.T. Allan and Miss S.E. Bourdillon

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr Richard Allan, of Holland Park, London, and Mrs Roderick Sargentson, of Compton Bassett, Wiltshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mervyn Bourdillon, of Llwyn Madiod, Llanwriddell Wells, Powys.

Mr P.D. Blyth and Miss L.E. Rose

The engagement is announced between Paul David, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Blyth, of Ashurst, Kent, and Lucy Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frederick Dyer, of Little Alne, Mr Henley in Arden, Warwickshire.

Mr A.J. Graham and Miss S.E. Aislett

The engagement is announced between Alastair James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs N.J. Graham, of Belfast, and Sophie Evelyn, daughter of Major and Mrs J.G. Aislett, Cumbers House, Rogate, Petersfield, Hampshire.

Mr D.S. Hart and Miss N.M. de Gelabert

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and the late Mrs D. Hart, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Natasha, daughter of Mr R. de Gelabert, of London, and the late Mrs M. de Gelabert, of Barcelona, Spain.

Squadron Leader B.W. Hockley-Hills, RAF (Rtd)

and Mrs S.H. Cassidy-Lewis

The engagement is announced between Brian William, eldest son of Mrs Stella M. Lambert, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, and the late Squadron Leader George W. Hockley-Hills, and Shelia, elder daughter of Mrs Gwendolyn E. Jacob, of Tuffnell Park, London, and the late Mr Louis M. Feinmesser, of Guyana, South America.

Mr M.T. Hallen and Miss R.O. Simpson

The engagement is announced between Matthew Trelawny, second son of Mr and Mrs Denis Hulbert, of Maranac, Heaton, Cornwall, and Rose O'Clair, only daughter of Professor and Mrs H.W. Simpson, of Glasgow and Kincraig.

Mr M.G. Lawson and Miss S.G.J. Bell

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs F. Lawson, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.J.G. Bell, of Cold Overton, Leicestershire.

Dr M.J.R. Letheren and Dr B.M. Finlay

The engagement is announced between John Mailer, elder son of Mr J.S. Radway, and Judith, Marchioness of Linlithgow, of Cincinnati, USA, and Sibilla Maria, younger daughter of Don Ruccardo and Donna Irene Tomacelli Filomarino Dei Principi Di Bonano, of Naples, Italy.

Mr N.S. Lewis and Miss A.C. Hesketh

The engagement is announced between Mark Stephen Lewis of Field Road, London, and Andie Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Hesketh, of Ewhurst, Surrey.

Mr E.D. Mannix and Miss A.J. Woodbury

The engagement is announced between Edward David, eldest son of Mr E.D. Mannix, and Miss Edward A. Mannix, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mannix, of London and Australia, and Mrs J.M. Kyriakis, of Cranbrook, Kent.

Mr M.A. Malone and Miss C.E. Morley

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Dr and Mrs Gordon Robson, of Waterloo Road, Bedford, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Morley, of Alfriston, E. Sussex.

Mr D.H.M. Williams-Ellis and Miss S.J.C. Stapleton

The engagement is announced between David Hugo Martyn, son of the late Mr and Mrs John Williams-Ellis of Markeaton, Nottingham, North Wales, and Barbara, elder daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Granville Oliver, Kirkcudbright, Scotland. The Reverend K.C. Oliver, grandfather of the bride officiated, assisted by the Reverend F. Craig. The bride was given in marriage by her father, Mr Simon Lush was Best Man. A reception was held at Bay Manor Barn and the Honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr A.M. Fogden and Miss N.M.A. Oliver

The marriage took place on Saturday April 7, at St Mary's Church, Plympton, of Mr Mark Fogden, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Oliver, of Ashurst, Hampshire, to Miss Nicola Oliver, elder daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Granville Oliver, Kirkcudbright, Scotland. The Reverend K.C. Oliver, grandfather of the bride officiated, assisted by the Reverend F. Craig. The bride was given in marriage by her father, Mr Simon Lush was Best Man. A reception was held at Bay Manor Barn and the Honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Dr A.P. Ambler

Dr A.P. Ambler was recently appointed to the newly-created Radcliffe HMB chair of test technology in the department of electrical engineering and electronics at Brunel University. He was previously reader in the department.

Mr G. Lawson

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs F. Lawson, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.J.G. Bell, of Cold Overton, Leicestershire.

King's College Hospital

King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry of King's College London

150th Anniversary Celebration Dinner for Past and Present Students of the Medical and Dental Schools Saturday May 19, 1990

Past and Present are invited to this Dinner to celebrate 150 years of health care at King's College Hospital together with its Clinical Medical School. The Dinner will take place on Saturday May 19, 1990 at the Savoy Hotel at 7.00 pm for 7.45 pm. Enquiries should be addressed to Mr. H.T. Muzzewell, Secretary of the School, King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry, Bessamer Road, London, SE5 9PJ. Telephone: 01-326 3002 (answering machine service).

The science report appears in the science and technology section, pages 31-34.

OBITUARIES

THE REV RALPH ABERNATHY

The Rev Ralph David Abernathy, the United States black civil rights leader second only in importance to Martin Luther King, died aged 64 on April 17. He was born on March 11, 1926.

MOST Americans retain a single, harrowing, image of the Rev Ralph Abernathy. This is the photograph of the Baptist minister kneeling on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis cradling the head of the dying Martin Luther King shortly after the assassin's bullet struck him on April 4, 1968.

For many of King's inner circle, men such as Jesse Jackson and Andrew Young, the former Atlanta Mayor, that picture always summed up the greatest contribution of a man who, they believed, over-reached himself after the leader's death and who, again they believed, betrayed his memory in indiscreet memoirs published last year.

Abernathy, the grandson of a slave, was King's trusted confidant and almost his alter ego. It was Abernathy, the older man, who in 1955 helped King organise the Montgomery bus boycott, the event that launched the modern civil rights movement. It was Abernathy who accompanied King to jail 17 times as a result of marches they led from Selma, Alabama, to Albany, Georgia.

It was for this role of trusted lieutenant that the Baptist Minister has been remembered by his former colleagues and not for the disappointing nine years that he spent as heir to King at the head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

As in one of these colleagues has put it: "When King was a very young and shy man it was Ralph Abernathy's friend-ship and support that helped him emerge to plant the seeds of human rights and human dignity now spreading all over the world. His total life and passion was his support of Martin Luther King."

A stalwart, plain-spoken preacher, with no great magnetism, Abernathy suffered from the inevitable comparisons with his martyred colleague, a fact that he grew to resent and which, in turn, estranged him further from the movement.

In his autobiography *And the Walls Came Tumbling Down* (1989), he complained that the others saw him as "no more than an appendage to Martin, someone who served as part companion, part bodyguard". This bitterness was held by some in the inner circle to account for his de-



cision to discuss King's adultery in the book, which became its most controversial aspect.

The details were already well known from other sources, but the veterans of the movement considered Abernathy's action disloyal in the extreme. Some put it down to the stroke he had already suffered.

Ralph David Abernathy was born on his father's farm on March 11, 1926, in Linden, Alabama, one of 12 children. As a post-graduate student in sociology in Atlanta he met King at the Ebenezer Baptist Church where King's father was pastor.

The two men became close friends in Montgomery when Abernathy was made pastor of the First Baptist Church in 1951 and King became pastor of the near-by Dexter Avenue Church. The two combined forces to organise the famous boycott after Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger.

As their campaign for non-violent resistance — a strategy aimed at appealing to a wide segment of whites — broadened, they set up the Conference in 1957, with King as leader and Abernathy as secretary-treasurer.

The civil rights confrontations helped lead to the passage by the Johnson Administration of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Of the many arrests Abernathy subsequently remembered: "Whenever Dr King and I would go to jail together we would spend the first 24

hours fasting to purify our souls in order that we would have no hatred in our hearts toward the jailer and a stronger determination to tear down the system responsible."

In Memphis on the night after the murder, King's staff mounted Abernathy as his chosen successor. His first action was to lead the Poor People's Campaign, a project King had been working on. It failed after long rains washed out the Washington camp.

Then, over the years, the Southern Conference lost its influence. When Abernathy resigned he complained that Coretta Scott King, the late leader's widow, was diverting support for the SCLC into the King Centre for Non-violent Social Change, the organisation run by the family in Atlanta.

Abernathy made an unsuccessful attempt to win the Congressional seat vacated by Young in 1977 and he returned to spend his remaining healthy years as pastor of the West Hunter Street Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Younger black leaders began to reproach Abernathy for his conservatism. Coretta King and others finally distanced themselves from him when he threw his prestige behind the candidacy of Ronald Reagan in the 1980 presidential election. Reagan "lacked even prestige as an actor," Mrs King observed at the time.

Abernathy justified his endorsement at the time as a bid to win influence for black concerns as he saw the nation's mood changing towards the Republicans and their candidate.

He is survived by his wife Juanita, two sons — one of them a Georgia state legislator — and two daughters.

RENÉ HILSUM

René Hilsum, the distinguished French publisher and "indispensable commentator" died in Paris on April 14, aged 96.

RENÉ Hilsum was the son of a Dutch Jew and his Polish wife.

He grew up amongst Jewish exiles in Paris during the heyday of Emile Zola and the Dreyfus Affair. He was known both for his bold and bright personality and for his capacity to survive two world wars plus deportation by the Nazis to the concentration camp at Mauthausen. "He seemed indomitable," French critics commented upon hearing of his death.

In his thirties, during the First World War, Hilsum became close friend to Louis Aragon, Paul Eluard, Philippe Souza and the leading French socialist who died only last month. He was closest of all to André Breton, the founder of the (paradoxically) tightly-organised Surrealist movement.

Hilsum published, in March, 1919, the first number of the review *Littérature*, which was founded and edited by Breton, Aragon and Souza.

It was until August, 1921, when a second series (edited by Breton alone) was from March, 1922 until June, 1924. The title had originally been suggested by no less than Paul Valéry, and it published work by him, by André Gide, and by several other writers almost as eminent.

In time Hilsum drew apart intellectually from those Surrealists, chiefly Breton, who finally refused to take the movement along with communism; he thus supported Aragon in 1930 when he visited Moscow and published *Red Frost* — which called for, among other methods of dealing with the political situation, assassination.

But amongst these political manoeuvres Hilsum did not neglect art, music or literature. He had opened a bookshop on the Avenue Kléber where music by such as Erik Satie and Max Jacob was performed, and in which pictures by Picasso, Chagall, Modigliani and Max Ernst and others were shown.

His publishing house Au Sans Pareil, founded in 1919, printed some of the most distinguished French authors of the time.

Among other works he published Aragon's *Feu de joie* (1920), the famous collaboration between Breton and Souza, the first "Surrealist poem" *Les Champs magnétiques* (1921), Benjamin Péret's *Le Passager du transatlantique* (1921) and Eluard's *Répitons* (1922). And then, in 1929, he brought out a short first novel, *Alexis*, by an unknown signing himself "Mang. Yourcenar".

OPERA
Richard Morrison
Jenifa
Festival Hall

JANÁČEK's first operatic masterpiece, *Jenifa*, may be rooted in the rigid mores of a Moravian village, and particularly in the idea that a baby born out of wedlock is entirely its mother's burden, her humiliation, her scandal. Its emotional clout, however, derives from acute observation of behaviour which happens the world over: people lash out violently if they see no other way out of oppressive circumstances.

The lash in *Jenifa* is horribly striking. A week-old baby is drowned in a freezing mill-stream because he would have ruined two adult lives. A girl's face is slashed by a man who thinks he can win her only by making her undesirable to others.

These events were properly appalling in the Festival Hall on Tuesday — which is odd, because this was an unadorned concert performance: last year's Glyndebourne cast, simply holding scores and standing in front of the London Philharmonic, which was in superb form under Andrew Davis's direction. For once, one was not distracted by trying to understand some director's "concept" of the opera: here the concept was Janáček's, the visual images evoked directly by the dissonant surges of his music.

One would not like to renounce opera houses entirely, of course. But the chance to hear top-class singers for about half the cost, and to hear the orchestra (which Janáček uses in a uniquely abrasive way) released from the muffling confines of a theatre pit, is something which the South Bank should offer regularly.

Anja Silja's powerful portrayal of the stepmother Kostelníčka, tearing herself apart with guilt, was inevitably the evening's highlight, but Philip Langridge repeated his memorably obsessive Laca, Roberta Alexander produced some glorious tone in the title-role, and Peter Straka was excellent as the boorish, drunken Steva.

Jatinder Verma, directing an Asian version of *Tartuffe* for the National Theatre, discusses it with Vera Lustig

What language do pigeons speak? This was one of the questions addressed by the all-Asian cast of a production of *Tartuffe*, which moved into the Cottesloe Theatre this week after an extensive tour of England and Wales. The pigeons in question carry *billets-doux* to the love-lorn Mumauji (Marie Anne in Molière's original), whose gullible, despotic father is trying to thwart her by marrying her off to the "faking fakir", Tartuffe — in this new adaptation, a shaven-headed, saffron-robed, shuffling, chanting pantomime.

The play's adapter and director, Jatinder Verma, whose 14-year-old company, Tara Arts, is also touring a version of Gogol's *The Government Inspector*, has turned Molière's comedy into a play-within-a-play, framed by scenes at the court of the 17th-century Mogul emperor Aurangzeb.

There are a number of parallels between Aurangzeb, the self-styled Alangiri (world conqueror), and Molière's Louis XIV, the Sun King. Under both regimes, religious intolerance was rife. Louis persecuted the Protestants, while Aurangzeb sternly enforced Islamic law, suppressing the Hindu religion. He even reimposed a poll tax on Hindus...

Of course, Mumauji's pigeons speak a universal language. With a grimace and a stylized gesture, the characters scrape their droppings off their faces. But the birds are also given dialogue.

"The guy who plays Tartuffe came up with this kooky idea," says Verma. "What about pigeon English? What is pigeon English? Patois is a kind of pigeon English, so is colloquial Gujarati. So one pigeon chose to speak a kind of Jamaican patois while the other spoke a very slangy Gujarati."

While avoiding what he calls "the sari syndrome" — the stereotyping of Asians as exotic and picturesque — Verma celebrates



Nizwar Karanji as Tartuffe in the Tara Arts production of *Tartuffe*, which is at the Cottesloe

his ethnicity and the wide cultural and linguistic base of his cast.

"There was a danger that the production might be pretty, nothing more. But we have tried to use ethnicity not just as a ghettoized thing but as a point of connection."

The play's move away from staging Asian plays to adapting European classics chimes with his restless search for cultural diversity, his fascination with different theatrical forms and conventions.

It also fits with a kind of donnish impudence on the part of a man who gained a First in History from York, having come to this country from Kenya in 1968.

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Verma's move away from staging Asian plays to adapting European classics

Nothing
excuses itTheatre reviews
Sheridan Morley

THE nuclear lobby does not seem to have been showing its "Come to Sunny Selfield" commercials lately, but in their place over the last three weeks we have had three major documentaries about the legacy of Windscale, of which last night's BBC 1 *Inside Story* was perhaps the most chilling.

Denys Blakeway's film, "Our Reactor is on Fire", told in straightforward, eye-witness recollection, the story of what happened on October 10, 1957, a nuclear disaster that was the world's worst until Chernobyl, and one that still makes the "China Syndrome" look like a relatively minor worry.

But in the course of his filming Blakeway discovered something still more frightening: for four years before 1957, persistent leaking of nuclear waste into the Cumbrian countryside had contaminated the whole neighbourhood, so that the "atomic milk" scare had less to do with the fire than with what had happened before it.

In that sense, the fire itself was a blessing in disguise since it forced a reluctant government finally to admit the dangers and do something about them.

Windscale still stands as a monument to our ignorance: in our desperation to fool ourselves into thinking we were a great nuclear power, we allowed, as new reports indicate, the dangers of leukaemia and cancer to spread through an area which only 30 years later is beginning to count a real cost which could add up to 400 lives.

In the meantime Selfield lives on, with authorities still able to control all information and neighbours recalling chilling stories of their children's shoes proving six times more radioactive than the highest danger levels allowed inside the plant.

It will need an Ibsen or an Arthur Miller and a latter-day *Enemy of the People* to bring home the true dramatic intensity of what is still happening in Cumbria in the name of nuclear progress, but with this trio of documentaries someone is clearly trying to tell us something — if only that Dame's *Inferno* was allowed to happen in the north of England, so that we should not go naked into some conference chamber or other.

On balance, nudity would surely have been the better option, not in the meantime Blakeway's film had all the black and white intensity of a 1950s Sunday television play, somewhere midway between *Quatermass Experiment* gone horribly wrong and *The Day the Earth Caught Fire*.

The trouble is that it was all for real, and it is not easy to believe that it could not happen again: if it was possible to bury four years of nuclear contamination under the grass of Cumbria, what else are we about to discover?

ANGEL DUST (Palace, 15): Cop on the side gets dangerously involved with a murderous wife, conventional material, but the imaginative direction of a new French talent, Edouard Niermans, gives the film class. 1988.

BULL DURHAM (Virgin, 15): Quirky cocktail of sex, Americans and baseball from writer-director Ron Shelton, with Kevin Costner as the veteran catcher hired to stop a losing team from shape. Tim Robbins shows his mettle as a cocky, dim-witted pitcher. 1988.

A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL (MGM/UA, PG): Cinema's first wrists with Alan Alda's bumbling Michael Winner's direction could have been subtler, though the cast — led by Jeremy Irons as the newcomer causing ructions among an amateur theatre group — polish off their material with assiduity. 1989.

A triumph of spiritual daring

CONCERTS
Paul GriffithsResurrection
Glasgow Cathedral

scale, it was a spiritual daring, for either the work is a triumphant affirmation of faith or else it is a huge sham. Which? I don't know.

One could argue that the domain of the sacred embraces the vulgar, just as it embraces the sweet, the pretty and the grandiose, all of which qualities *Resurrection* has in abundance, along with occasional inventions that claim an aesthetic as well as a religious justification.

They include the tumult of brass at the Betrayal, the nimbus of low basses with trumpets and

strings around the voice of Christ, the flamboyantly melismatic lines for a tenor soloist in the Crucifixion liturgy and also later for Christ singing the Last Words. But these things rather pale in the light of Taverner's boldness in wanting to create a holy mystery out of repeated melodic formulae and shock tactics.

The wonder of the evening was further enhanced by the high standard of vocal performance under the composer's cousin, Alan Taverner, conducting his own excellent Cappella Nova. Stephen Richardson was the admirable Christ, solid and rich in the Russian style clearly expected. There were wonderful things, too, from Lorna Anderson as Mary, Simon Gay as the counter-tenor Judas, Robert Horn as the high tenor Peter, and Angus Smith as the Evangelist.

Roger Marsh's *Point to Point* did much the same thing, though in this instance the boundaries of his piece are set by a single note.

There were also three works for smaller forces. Catherine Playser's *Conversation Piece*, originally for oboe and tape but transcribed effectively for this performance for two oboes (Playser and David Wilson), took a couple of simple ideas and mesmerizingly exploited co-ordinated and uncoordinated echoes.

Playser also played Julia Usher's *A Reed in the Wind*, a cycle of oboe pieces depicting the great winds of the world, which had fewer contrasts than its title suggests; and Alexander Goehr's *Paraphrase on Il Combinamento di Tassorelli e Clarinda*, given by the clarinettist Mark Tomson, seemed but a pale reflection of the old idea, but an effective one.

SOMETHING about the sound of a mixed wind ensemble, around 10-strong, is fundamentally reassuring. It has to do with its sustained quality and with sheer volume, which sometimes verges on the painful in this recital by the New Wind Orchestra. The combination brought out the extrovert in three of the six living composers represented on Tuesday.

The notes about David Sutton Anderson's *Nachzitt*, for instance, brazenly stated that the piece is "all-purpose 'disaster' music". Accordingly, it was over-full of clichés of melody and texture of the kind one might expect to hear in the more thrilling episodes of a Hitchcock film.

David Blake's *Citizen* was also less than profound, and pretended nothing else, though it is written with skill and relish for Latin-American dance rhythms.

The Hunt for Red October, James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket, Roger and Me, Shocker, Mountains of the Moon and Troop Beverly Hills

Facing opposition from East and West: Boris Krutsev (left), Sam Neill, and Sean Connery in *The Hunt for Red October*

The film that time forgot? *The Hunt for Red October* (PG, Empire 1) looks like it. Tom Clancy's novel was published in 1984 — a date which once symbolized future dread, but now recalls a vanished era of European history and Western dread of the Evil Empire in the East. A title disarmingly advises that the action takes place "shortly before Gorbatchov came to power", but the drama has lost its impact upon audiences freed from paranoia.

There is one lucky piece of topicality, the hero, defecting from Moscow, is Lithuanian. Captain Marko Ramius (Sean Connery) is put in command of the latest Soviet secret weapon, a nuclear submarine capable of sneaking to the very edge of the shores of America to deliver a decisive strike.

It is soon established that the pragmatic Ramius and his officers propose to defect. At the same time it turns out that the vessel is not so undetectable to the Americans as was thought. Thus, the drama is poised, as the submarine steers its predictable course between the Soviet navy, determined to destroy the vessel rather than let it fall into American hands, and the Americans, determined to avert what could be a nuclear strike.

Despite the nuclear weapons and electronic gadgetry, it all seems somehow very archaic, looking back to *Run Silent, Run Deep* and *Ice Station Zebra*. Whenever scriptwriters are stuck in confined spaces like submarines they become excessively wordy, with dialogue that explains both plot and naval strategy at tiresome length.

So *The Hunt for Red October* is stretched to a wearisome two-and-a-quarter hours, without its director John McTiernan offering any compensatory visual style. Sean Connery is a consolation: here he is frosty-bearded, taciturn, mysterious and possessed of some smart tricks to evade homing torpedoes.

Exceptionally, two thrilling American documentaries reach theatrical screens this week.

Bob Rafelson once said: "I am not attracted to making just any movie." *Mountains of the Moon* (15, Odeon Leicester Square) is far from being run of the mill — how many other films concern Burton and Speke, Victorian explorers of the Nile's source? — yet it seems a strangely imperious pile of celluloid to surface from the director of *Five Easy Pieces* and *The King of Marvin Gardens*.

Rafelson earned his high reputation in the early 1970s with quirky mosaics of Americana, deftly attuned to people and places; but here his individual territory has been abandoned for the big historical epic. Burton's expedition marches in, pretty

silhouette against an orange sky; a carpet-topped clown is introduced to Burton as "one of your admirers, Algernon Swinburne"; a native attack wraps up a deafening soundtrack stew of swordplay, gunfire, fistfights, music, grunts and thunderous extras. We might almost be watching *Five Easy Pieces*.

Rafelson, to be fair, is truly interested in the story he is telling. An intrepid traveller himself, he identifies closely with Richard Burton, the extravagantly curious Victorian who kicked his Nile explorations in between learning



James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket

no writer ever wrote a line that did not have a message."

In later years Baldwin's critics charged him with bitterness. "Jimmy was not bitter," says the formidable Maya Angelou, a fellow-writer. "Jimmy was angry — he was constantly angry at injustice, at ignorance, at exploitation, at stupidity, at vulgarity." Karen Thorsen has nobly encapsulated this magnificent anger.

Roger and Me (15, Warner West End) is an eccentric, combative political documentary, produced independently by a company called Dog Eat Dog Films with money raised by putting on Bingo games. Now it has the unusual good fortune of theatrical distribution by Warner Brothers.

The film relates the fate of Flint, Michigan, after General Motors — which was established in the town in 1908, and brought it to the peak of its prosperity — abandoned its Flint factories in favour of expansion in centres of cheap labour like Mexico.

The film debut of radical journalist Michael Moore, *Roger and Me* chronicles the outcome, as a quarter of the population lose their jobs. Shores close. Unable to pay their rent, families are evicted from their homes. Crime increases. A doomed effort to establish a tourist industry and automobile theme park bequeathes the town still more derelict buildings.

Moore juxtaposes the home movies of his childhood as the son of a General Motors worker; old film footage, including Pat Boone and Anita Bryant, official songsters of General Motors television show, and his own repertoire of Flint in decline. The running joke which gives the film its title is Moore's constantly frustrated quest to meet and interview General Motors' beaming chief executive, Roger Smith.

Moore is a plump, shambling, untidy man whose very appearance is an affront to the ritzy clubs and parties where he leads his film crew in search of the elusive Smith — generally getting bounced for his pains.

It ends on Christmas Eve, as Smith delivers an unctuous Christmas message to his staff, the Flint sheriff's officer hurries with the last evictions before his holiday, and Pat Boone emotionally croons, "I am proud to be an American". One has a strong sense of a time out of joint.

In a different way, one feels the same in *Shocker* (18, Cannon Fawcett Street), a reworking of the current preoccupation with horror films, slasher murders, premonitory dreams, resurrection, the transmission of evil from body to body. Even if most of this is well-worn, the director, Wes Craven, shows some touch of invention in his use of video techniques and the idea of characters entering the world behind the television screen.

(PG), a foolish comedy ribbing the suburb's taste for conspicuous consumption.

Brittle comedienne Shelley Long plays a daffy housewife determined to prove her worth by taking charge of the local Wilderness Girls troupe; their activities include jewellery appraisal and describing the autumn fashions to the blind.

Everyone bends over backwards to be madcap — not least the costume designer, Theodore Van Runkle, who clothes the star in 47 absurdly frivolous concoctions. A pity the writers were unable to think of just as many jokes to match.

Geoff Brown

Exploring the wilder African cliché

40 languages, becoming an expert swordsman, and translating *The Perfumed Garden*. Where Burton befriends the African tribes and marvels at the wonders of *roule*, his companion John Hanning Speke, a far colder fish, treats the natives abruptly and marches ahead, questing after personal glory. Upon sight — and naming — Lake Victoria, Speke rushes to claim the sole discovery of the Nile's source with unproper proof. Debates and squabbles rock the Royal Geographical Society, and their friendship dies.

Comparatively fresh faces head the cast. Irish-born Patrick Bergin is strapping enough for Burton; while Iain Glen Speke conveys the necessary mix of naivety and self-interest. Yet neither cuts the deep impression their characters deserve; Rafelson's lumbering epic caravan keeps riding over them.

Exterior African scenes are annoyingly muddy in colour. But the film scores highly in the English interiors, which are choked with gloomy furnishings, mutton-chop whiskers, and general Victorian fug.

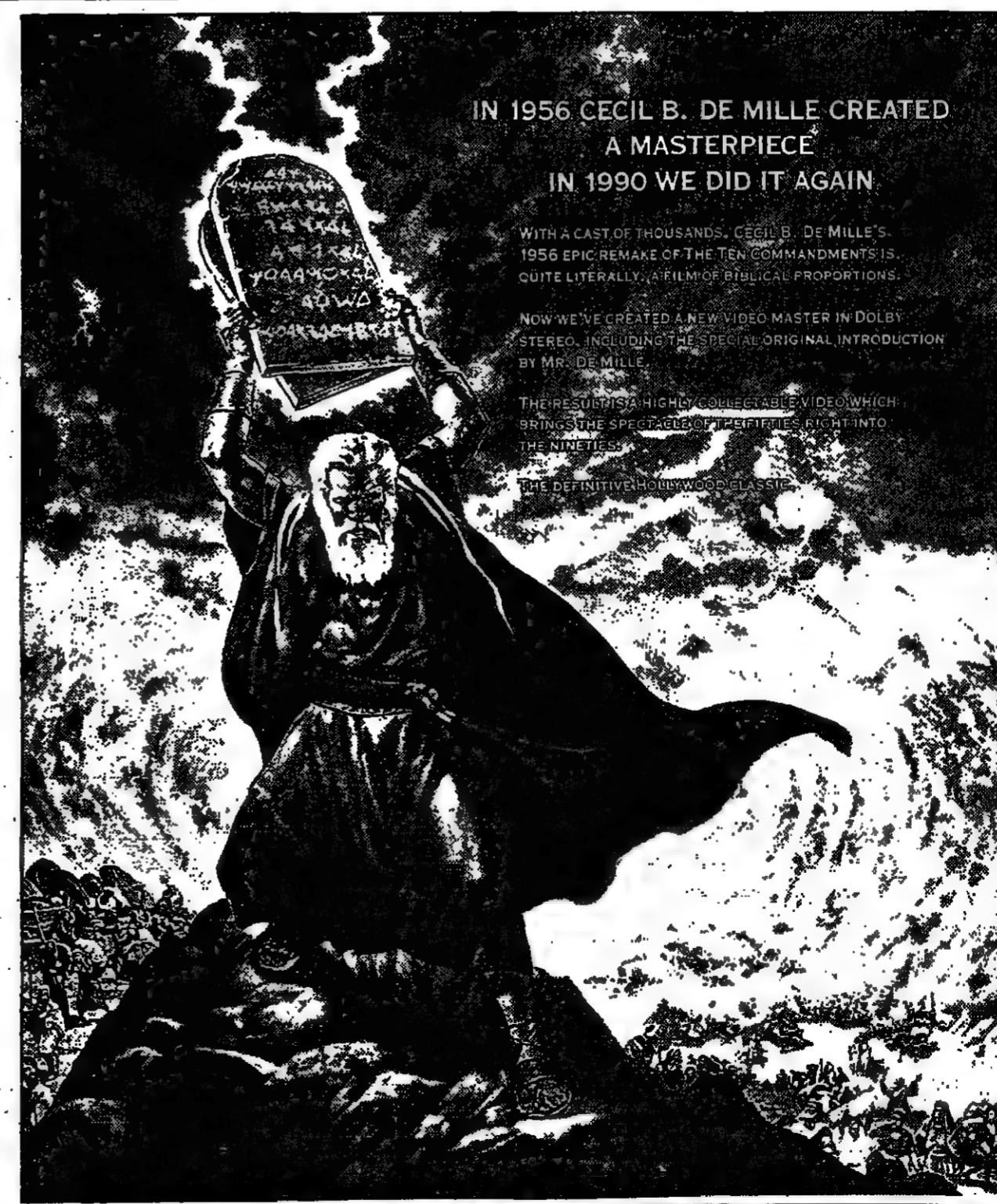
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HEALTH

A day at the sickening seaside

Just when you thought it might be safer to go back into the water, doctors are warning of new dangers lurking off the beaches. Liz Gill reports on the contamination of our seas

Sea bathing has been considered a tonic for body and mind ever since the Prince Regent first took the plunge at Brighton. Two hundred years on, however, many of our coastal waters are so polluted that holiday-makers frequently find it healthier to stay on the shore.

This week the medical magazine *General Practitioner* reported that doctors were expecting an increase this summer in the incidence of "sewage sickness" — illnesses contracted from swimming in contaminated water — and warned that "unless you know the beach is safe and free from pollution, it may be safer just to make sand castles".

More than 300 million gallons of sewage are discharged into the seas around Britain every day. More than half of this, according to Richard Caines, of the Marine Conservation Society, is either raw or has received only rudimentary primary treatment. "We have been using the sea as a dustbin for a long time. Some of our systems are a legacy of the Victorian era," he says.

Mr Caines is editor of *The Good Beach Guide*, the latest edition of which, to be published on Sunday (Ebury Press, £5.99), details 150 of the cleanest and most pleasant areas. The guide, sponsored by Heinz, will also carry the Golden List, first compiled by the Coastal Anti-Pollution League, which includes information on any beach where there is a sewage outfall.

"Some of these are so short that the discharge doesn't even reach the water. Others end just within the water, but the muck and the seagulls would alert you. There may be more hidden threats though, when the outfall is not so obvious. A pipe may take the effluent a kilometre out to sea, but bacteria and viruses can survive two or three days and during that time they may be washed back into shore."

Health problems are not confined to sea-bathing: a dip in the river or canal may be equally hazardous. Richmond borough, for example, put up notices at the end of last season advising people to keep out of the Thames. A spokesman said the decision had been taken because of concern over pollution, floating wreckage and Weil's Disease, an illness carried by rats and transmitted in their urine to humans that affects kidneys, sometimes with fatal results.

British Waterways recently launched a drive to warn of the dangers of canal bathing. "The worry of Weil's Disease has grown because last year was a boom year

for rats, but generally you take a risk with your health if you go into a canal," a spokesman said.

Mr Caines claims not enough research on the effects of water pollution on health has been done, though there are some signs that the Government is now taking the threat seriously. The Department of the Environment commissioned a special study last year in which male and female volunteers from Swansea swam in the Langland Bay on the Gower peninsula on a particular day in September. Their subsequent health was compared with that of a control group of non-bathers. The results of that and a back-up study should be known within the next couple of months.

Anti-pollution legislation does exist: the EC's Bathing Waters Quality Directive was introduced in 1976, but since there is no uniform interpretation, results from one country cannot be compared with those from another.

"The British Government has traditionally only looked at the bacterial standards of water and not those standards covering clarity and viruses," says Blake Le Harwood, of the Friends of the Earth water and toxics campaign.

This directive also only applies to areas designated as bathing waters by a particular country. Britain has always dragged its feet over this one. For instance, it began by designating only 27 areas, which was seven fewer than Luxembourg, which has no coast. The number has now gone up to 400, but they are all coastal. No attention is paid to lakes or rivers."

The "pass rate" among Britain's designated beaches is 76 per cent.

"We are getting there, but we're still moving too slowly," Mr Caines says. "We were meant to get them all past the minimum standards five years ago. And there are still only a handful of beaches that come into the really top quality of water category."

Compared with many parts of the developing world and even the Mediterranean, Britain is relatively well off, according to Professor Alasdair McIntyre, a marine biologist at Aberdeen University and chairman of the United Nations working party of scientific experts on the marine environment worldwide. The fact that only 21 UK beaches received the European "blue flag" award compared with 120 in Spain, for example, was not necessarily a reflection of comparative cleanliness: the measures might not be uniform and the award was based on other facilities, such as beach patrols, as well.

However, the United Nations Environmental Programme's



Danger zone: children playing in warm, shallow water are at risk as they stir up viruses and bacteria attached to particles on the bottom

(Unep) plan to clean up the Mediterranean has led to a substantial overall improvement.

Unep estimated that a decade ago 90 per cent of the sewage from Mediterranean countries was dumped in the sea with little or no treatment.

By last year, however, according to a report in *Holiday Which?*, the organization said the sea had generally been made much cleaner, though the situation varied from country to country. In theory all 18 countries bordering the sea are co-operating with the plan, but information on actual levels of pollution was readily available in only two countries, *Holiday Which?* says.

France, Italy, Greece and Spain are bound by the EC directive, but whereas France posts its beach conditions in public places and Italy's Ministry of Health publishes its findings, Spain was slow to release its 1988 figures and Greece, despite having 15,000 miles of coastline, had designated fewer than 100 beaches for testing.

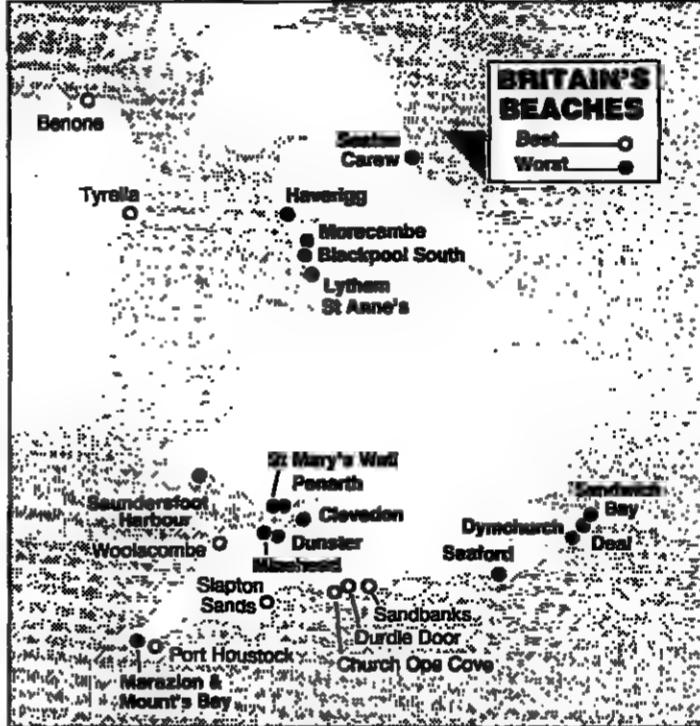
Professor McIntyre says many

British beaches still have significant problems.

"To get the gastroenteritis upsets you generally have to swallow the contaminated water, but that's not uncommon, particularly if you're doing things like learning to waterski, which might involve a lot of falling in." Risks increase if the head is submerged, giving germs a chance to enter through the ears or nose.

"Small children often run extra risks if they're playing in warm shallow water, because these viruses and bacteria attach themselves to particles which then sink to the sand on the bottom. Children tend to stir these up and they also tend to stay in the water longer."

What you can catch from polluted water depends on the incidence of disease in the population. Although cholera, typhoid, hepatitis and polio can be passed on this way, they are rare in this country. Swimmers abroad, however, run greater risks of catching these and other diseases, such as the notorious bilharzia of Africa, which is carried by worms.



Doing a dirty job: *The Good Beach Guide* lists the places to avoid

Patience and the patient
Surgery could be safer — if only we would wait

British hospital patients are not as docile as they once were. They have come to expect the best, and if they do not get it they want to know why, according to the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Against this background of rising expectations, the Royal College yesterday produced new guidelines aimed at improving standards of care and safety in operating theatres, but warned that as a result, patients may have to wait longer for non-emergency operations.

The college recommends that hospitals should keep at least one of their operating theatres available 24 hours a day exclusively for emergency and urgent cases, and that fewer such operations should be performed during the night, when fewer staff are on duty.

The guidelines are a sequel to a report published by the college two years ago into peri-operative deaths in NHS hospitals. It showed that seven patients in every 1,000 undergoing surgery died within the next few days or weeks.

The new report says consultant surgeons must take responsibility for all operations, whether done by themselves or by junior staff. If they delegate an operation, they must be available, or their whereabouts known, to the surgical team.

"The British operating theatre is still a very safe place, but some of the deaths which occur are avoidable or preventable," Mr Adrian Martin, chairman of the working party that produced the new report, said yesterday.

Mr Brendan Devlin, who led the college inquiry into peri-operative deaths, said: "We found few instances of really bad surgery, but we must strive to improve our standards."

He said the improvements could best be achieved by the creation of more consultant posts. "That may have the effect of lengthening waiting lists for some operations," he said. "However, wouldn't you rather wait a month or two longer and make sure it's properly done than go in sooner and run the risk of a botched job?"

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The seat of the problem

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttiford

to haemorrhoids, presumably the result of an anatomical weakness which is uncovered by straining, particularly the straining which occurs in heavy lifting.

Contrary to popular belief, piles are more likely to be found in manual workers than in the office bound.

Haemorrhoids are dilated veins around the anus or just inside the rectum, an area where there are some highly vascular pads which help to ensure good closure and serve a similar function to draft excluders around a door.

If Viv Richards had no such qualms when he issued a very frank statement explaining that it was his piles which prevented him playing in some of the matches against the English touring side.

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Haemorrhoids are dilated veins around the anus or just inside the rectum, an area where there are some highly vascular

BOOKS

Pioneer of Modernism

Hugh David on the long neglected innovative and way-out novelist of the Thirties, the peer of Evelyn Waugh and Michael Arlen

WILLIAM GERHARDIE
A Biography
By Dido Davies
Oxford, £25
FUTILITY
By William Gerhardie
Robin Clark, £4.95
MEMOIRS OF A POLYGLOT
By William Gerhardie
Robin Clark, £5.95
GOD'S FIFTH COLUMN
By William Gerhardie
The Hogarth Press, £8.95

Beginning at the beginning, Dido Davies prefacing her effervescent biography with a note or two on how its subject pronounced his name. For most of his life he was William Gerhardi, although there were occasions when he preferred Gerhardi or Gav-hardi, and even the final "i" was a late addition. This is no mere academic pedantry, for such nomenclatural inexactitude is typical of the exotic individuality of William Gerhardie (1893-1977).

The youngest son of a wealthy Anglo-Russian family, he early on decided that he was a "changeable", and not entirely of this world. Like one of the languid young men who worry their way through the plays of his beloved Chekhov (characteristically, Gerhardie insisted on spelling the name "Chehov" and even "Chehov"), throughout an unorthodox education in St Petersburg, London, and at postwar Oxford, he tortured himself with unfair comparisons to an impossible world, wholly imaginary and ego, "Henry Esbomarsh". But if adolescence came close to breaking him, it was the Great War that finally made him.

Fluent in four languages, Gerhardie was seconded to diplomatic duties in St Petersburg (Petrograd), in 1917, watched the Russian Revolution at first hand and – for all the world as if the cherry orchard had not been finally grubbed up – acquired his dandified, slightly effeminate "fuspol" manner in the gilded corridors of the British Embassy. Travelling around Europe in the early Twenties, as often as not with an urn containing his father's ashes in his rucksack, he began to write, despite the fact that his English was strangely accented and strongly tainted by Russian. He was still spelling "don't" as "d'on", and wondering "why I was rendered in one single letter, why it is not spelt iigh".

Miraculously, it did not matter. After the success of his first two novels, *Futility* (1922) and *The Polyglot* (1925), Gerhardie's literary career, launched on the shoulders of Katherine Mansfield



and Edith Wharton, became one of the talking points of the Twenties. Even today it is not difficult to see why *Futility* is an astonishingly assured first novel. Simultaneously "modern" and wistfully Chekhovian, part one is even entitled "Three Sisters" – it anticipates much of Gerhardie's later self-absorption in his first-person account of a young Englishman's involvement with a ludicrously extended Russian family, whose fortune and entire *raison d'être* are destroyed by the Russian Revolution. Originally subtitled "A Novel on Russian Themes", it might now almost be described as a psychological love story, and despite its mannered style, it still has some claim to be bracketed with *The Waste Land* and *Ulysses* (both also published

in 1922) as one of the bedrocks of English modernism.

Certainly it laid the foundations for Gerhardie's adoption as "the Pet of the Intelligentsia". He was Honoured by Arnold Bennett, H. G. Wells, Lloyd George, and Lord Beaverbrook, among others. But, as Davies movingly describes, well before 1930 he had also begun paying the price of fame. Like his exact contemporary Michael Arlen (whose own fictions Gerhardie's sometimes resemble, but always outclass), he soon became "more famous than his books" – gossip column rather the book-page, fopper. "He is so handsome as to be almost beautiful," an American paper had gushed in 1928, but by 1931 even Beaverbrook was considering featuring him in a series on "Splendid Failures".

As Davies demonstrates, "the mood was changing"; the Thirties were far more political and pragmatic than the Twenties. Somehow Gerhardie's Proustian fastidiousness was no longer enough. Tellingly, perhaps, it was in the first year of the new decade that he chose to publish his autobiography, *Memories of a Polyglot*. He was just 35, but as things turned out, the book was as much a validation as the hoped-for potboiler.

To all intents and purposes, Gerhardie had lived his life by 1930; and in *Memories of a Polyglot* he does it full justice, writing fluently, humorously, and as only he could about his childhood, St Petersburg, the war, and his later success. But, beneath the surface gloss, the warning signs are already there. The book begins with "The Author's Speech" and concludes with a sermon on "How to Lecture in America". In both, the tone is hectoring, belligerent, prickly, and defensive. "READERS, — My relations with the Siwells continue to be friendly. H. G. Wells approves of me unreservedly; Bernard Shaw in essentials".

And, as his public speech warned

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Novels of the week: Prima donna and Primavera passions

Paramo, by definition, is a terrible affliction; but when Peter Prince's characters detect it in one another they almost sigh with relief. "It was all much more ordinary than he had feared," thinks Tom Scott on a mercy visit to Susan Strang, an out-of-work actress who for five years or so has been in a black mood, holed up in a miserable seaside town. He is cheered to find her "an everyday case of rampant paramo".

His unarticulated "Phew!", though, is a stage gesture of pantomime proportion. For as a television director, he too, is "in the business" in a self-obsessed world in which dramatic effect and entertainment value can all too easily be drawn out of situations where it is not scripted. At the heart of this shrewd and funny novel about friendship in the world of stage and screen, sits a siren figure, the soap opera queen lurking in us all, who tempts us to slam down phones and compose drop-dead lines, to make flamboyant exits and plot triumphant come-backs.

Or, like Susan Strang – a one-time Best Actress of the Year for her role as Lucy Entwistle in a historical saga – to write spiteful, posturing letters to old friends, because no one recognises her brilliance, let alone offers her the right (which means RSC and leading) parts. Not surprisingly, Susan waves Tom Scott's offer of "three lines and a sneeze" just to get you started again", but only because she has landed the role of a lifetime.

Her director is Raymond Thorne, a sad, skinny local man, flattered to be befriended by this "star" who will not only listen to his maudlin stories of wicked brothers, Nazi fathers, and cheated inheritances, but will act upon the injustice of it all immediately. Fooling her sense of being wronged with him, Susan prepares to carry off an epic role of revenge. Wearing a fur coat, carrying a revolver, playing it up like the good professional she used to be, she crosses Europe on a train to shoot Raymond's brother.

All goes smoothly until the French-Spanish border, when contrary to the plan, she must go through Customs – with the revolver. The officials stop her, they notice she is using a false name, they hold on to the gun (disguised as a radio), they smile at

A star in her courses

FICTION

Sarah Edworthy

DEATH OF A SOAP QUEEN

By Peter Prince

Bloomsbury, £13.99

PRIMAVERA

By Stevie Davies

The Woman's Press, £12.95

THE ICE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD

By Mark Richard

Cape, £12.95

her, questioningly. It's all over, she thinks, anticipating handcuffs. Then people start screaming, fainting, throwing bouquets, chanting "La Entwistle"! It turns out the old saga is an international syndication. Instead of travelling as anonymous specks, Susan is a born-again star.

It is a brilliant moment of realization, and one in which both comic and compassionate possibilities are expanded to full, blossoming under the adulation. Susan acknowledges to herself that she has tricked poor Raymond, that actors are monsters, who do anything in the great search for an effect, but this murder business is all a bad joke. And yet – but not too early in the story – she is new found sanity must survive one last shot. She has landed the role of a lifetime.

Her director is Raymond Thorne, a sad, skinny local man, flattered to be befriended by this "star" who will not only listen to his maudlin stories of wicked brothers, Nazi fathers, and cheated inheritances, but will act upon the injustice of it all immediately. Fooling her sense of being wronged with him, Susan prepares to carry off an epic role of revenge. Wearing a fur coat, carrying a revolver, playing it up like the good professional she used to be, she crosses Europe on a train to shoot Raymond's brother.

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Tom Scott. For Tom unrealistically, hankers after big screen acclaim with huge, sweeping dramas, before accepting the fact that his talent lies in minimalist, slice-of-life documentaries for the BBC. The denouement for both of them is highly entertaining, rich in twists and happy coincidences.

In *Primavera*, Stevie Davies slaps two incongruous slices of life together – prosperous, rural Pennsylvania, and on-the-breadline Bradford, Yorkshire – with a sliver of Florence. Inevitably, the result is that one can never quite forget that this is fiction.

Moreover, it is a surprising affirmation of Victorian prudery. For when the blatant eroticism of all those Renaissance nudes causes septuagenarian Jack to fall in love with a boy in the Uffizi, he turns out to be Bradford girl called Jenny; while Jack's grey-haired wife Mairi finds herself in love with Nicki, a woman 30 years her junior. And all because of Botticelli's "Primavera". The hurly-burly of plot here is a rather schematic blurring and redefining of what one is encouraged to call "gender distinctions".

Despite a well-choreographed timetabling of daily life on both sides of the Atlantic, there is not enough to engage much interest. Davies's men are aggressive, red-necked brutes (until old and impotent when they become sweet); her women (predominantly thin, fragile creatures) are for ever falling into each other's arms in spontaneous outbursts of intuitive understanding. The four eat, drink, and eventually shrug off their strange, experimental affinities.

Three early stories in *The Ice At The Bottom Of The World* are so riveting that one cannot begin to paraphrase them. In "Strays", "Her Favorite Story" and "Happiness of the Garden Variety", Mark Richard's unique, halting idiom eschews the brand-name dirty realism of other writers of the American South for a Faulknerian knife-edge of horror and hilarity. His characters don't shop in neon-lit malls or watch *MASH* re-runs; they live in peeling backwater shacks with neglected kids, black eyes, stray dogs, and terrible marriages. They relive Indian myths, and become the victims of their own games and fantasies.

The later stories rely on an interest in seafaring; but the writing is still addictive.

Everyday tale of terror and nightmare morality in Ulster

IRA ironies

Michael Wright

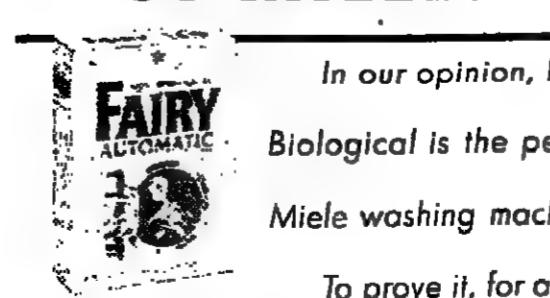
LIES OF SILENCE

By Brian Moore

Bloomsbury, £12.99

prison architecture is harsh and unremitting. Its smooth walls provide no jutting hand-holds for the reader, no purchase on the action. It is all black and musty, room, like Bloomsbury's stark-draped dust-jacket. Moore has created a compelling and attractively nasty novel, punching its way through the "lies of silence" that maintain the deadlock to the fear and uncertainty beneath.

Ironies become apparent, as Dillon begins to see his changed surroundings as a film in which he has no part. Like actors on a stage, every character wears a mask of sorts, not merely the IRA in their Hallowe'en balaclavas. For Dillon, people look more "real" on television; yet his own experiences belie those distant events spooned out by the broadcasters. The novel leaps beyond the media, films, and television. It is a double irony then that its fancies hero will only come to life in that inevitable transfer from print to celluloid.

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Monster at the market gates?

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Alan Franks examines the controversy over Spitalfields

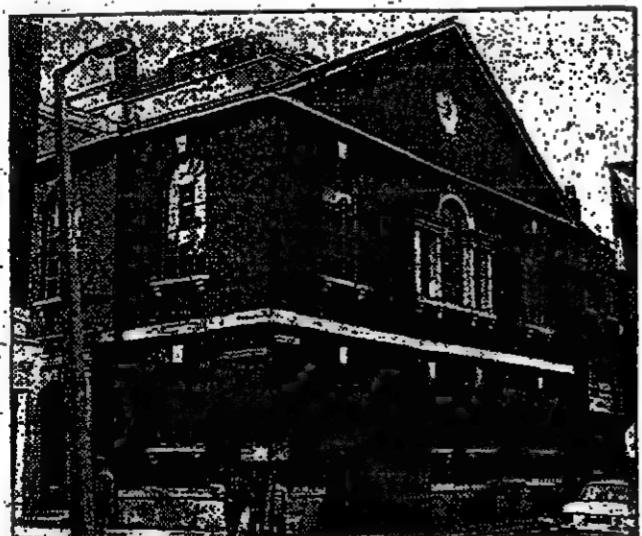
In the uncertain balance of influences at the part of the map where the City of London expires and the East End takes over, the old fruit and vegetable market of Spitalfields is about to play a fateful role. A reworked version of plans to turn the 12-acre site into a major complex with one million square feet of offices and shops is to be considered by the local authority before the end of the month.

The scheme for this, one of London's last remaining sites of such social and historical sensitivity to be considered for redevelopment, has been roundly condemned by the influential *Architects' Journal*, which claims that "an architectural tragedy is in the making". Built within a stone's throw of Hawksmoor's Christ Church, the complex would sport a seven-storey shopping arcade, restaurants, bars and three acres of public open space. The scheduled date of completion is 1994.

Critics of the £500 million scheme, including the Royal Fine Art Commission and the Design Society, argue that such a large project, containing such a high commercial concentration, will destroy the balance of the neighbourhood with its peerless examples of early 18th century town houses. Together with the nearby Bishopsgate goods yard and Brick Lane brewery, both the subject of planning proposals, and between them totalling another 20 acres, Spitalfields has become the focal point in the continuing battle for the eastern frontier of the City.

The fate of the plans by the American architects Swank Hayden Connell's—the fourth set to be submitted—hangs on the decision of the nine-member Bethnal Green Neighbourhood Committee, which is expected to meet on April 27. If this sounds like an oddly parochial body to judge the merits of such a momentous scheme, that is because in 1986 the local authority of Tower Hamlets took the unconventional step of devolving most of its functions to seven such neighbourhood committees, each one composed of the

From the Huguenots to the new Commonwealth immigrants, the poor bring their hopes and skills



Aspects of change: the old synagogue in Brick Lane

for any feckless transient, mendicant, professional beggar and conman in the metropolis. Soon the residue of the respectable fled.

By the 1850s Spitalfields had become a dark, nefarious slum, with a network of rookeries. The poet Francis Thompson caught the flavour when he sought shelter in the Crispin Street Sisters of Mercy hostel and recalled an image of a City of Dreadful Night.

Famine in the 1840s brought a steady stream of Celtic immigrants into the East End. By the end of the 19th century, as inter-marriages increased, a new Anglo-Irish stock took areas of Spitalfields. Their children

passed, in effect restricting their entry.

The inter-war years offered prospects of upper social mobility, and the Spitalfields ghetto began to dissolve. The Blitz, and then the post-war reconstruction of the East End, saw more and more children of the ghetto disappearing to other areas.

Of the Huguenots there now remain the splendid houses, and one church, L'Eglise Neuve, built in 1743 and subsequently a Methodist chapel, a synagogue and a mosque.

Now, Bangladeshi newcomers reside in the houses that once accommodated Huguenot, Irish and Jew. The old pattern of immigration has been repeated, the legendary London streets becoming a magnet for a poor rural folk seeking escape from perennial floods, famine and civil strife.

There is still a flourishing light engineering industry, chemical and transport plants and, above all, the traditional clothing trade. One can still hear the hum and whirr of machines, just as in the day of Huguenot weavers. And at the same time, there has been another, newer wave of immigration. In the areas bordering the City, housing is at a premium. Fournier Street still has houses erected by the Huguenots, and professionals looking for elegant and relatively cheap homes within walking distance of their offices are displacing Bangladeshis, while artists and sculptors have moved into the wide art workshops.

W.J. Fishman

• Professor Fishman is a social historian at the University of London.



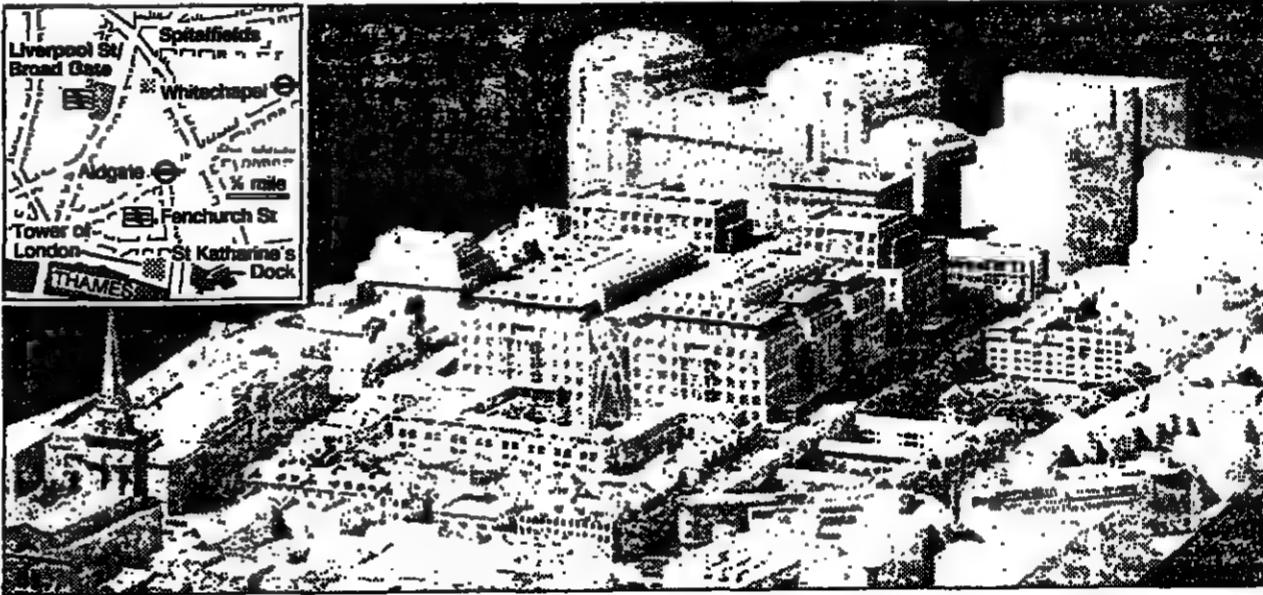
Past, present, future: the Spitalfields area (above), overlooked by Christ Church, and with the near-derelict market at its heart, and (below) a model of the latest proposals

will aim to have a certain modesty," he says, "as opposed to the new Bishopsgate building which is rather like an inflated country house... It will also have some familiarity about the materials used—the brick and wood and Portland sandstone, rather than the polished granites and flashy, exuberant fronts of the City."

He also stresses that there will be no large expanses of vertical elevation, and that the whole scheme is informed by the wish to show an appreciation of the construction of many fine Georgian houses.

After six years of deliberation, time is now of the essence, for if the neighbourhood committee, with its Liberal majority of three, rejects or defers the application, the Spitalfields Development Group inevitably fears a more hostile reception if Labour is returned to power in Tower Hamlets after the May 3 elections. The council is currently hung between 23 Liberal and 23 Labour members, with the Liberal mayor having the casting vote. Councillors are this week seeking to have a meeting of the authority's still-centralised policy and resources committee scheduled to sit directly after the conclusion of the neighbourhood committee's session.

If the scheme does receive approval, then SDG's adviser Goldman Sachs will be able to carry out its brief of seeking a fourth member of the consortium; the present three are the London and Edinburgh Trust (part of the Swedish Pension Group SPP), Balfour Beatty (the construction arm



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SUN ALLIANCE
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PREVIEW

TODAY Opera, Dance & Books

FRIDAY Classical Music • MONDAY Art & Auctions • TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

OPERA

Barry Millington

LONDON

ARIADNE ON NAXOS: Late Romantic novel-gazing: Strauss's witty contribution to the perennial debate on the nature of opera. Revived conducted by Lionel Friend, with Anne Evans and Michael Horner. English National Opera, Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-538 3161). Tomorrow and Wed, 7.30pm, £3-£5.

MACBETH: Another in the series of expert Verdi productions from the ENO team. With Jonathan Summers and Kristine Cecilia Marti. Elder conducts ENO (as above) Sat, Tues, Fr, 7.30pm, £3-£5.

LA CENERENTOLA: Michael Hampel's Salzburg Festival production comes to London. Cast includes Agnes Baltsa, Cecilia Duscher and Francois Le Roux. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066). Tues, 7.30pm, £2.50-£5.

THE TRIAL BY JURY/MMS PINAFORE: The new-look D'Oyly Carte opens its 1990 tour with two new GMS productions. Cast includes Sandra Dugdale and Philip Cressy. Pavilions, Bournemouth (0202 297297). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, £3-£5.

L'ELISIR D'AMORE: Jill Fowlie produces Donizetti for Bath Opera; conducted by Alan Burrows. University Hall, Bath (0225 316006). Tonight, 7.30pm, £5.

L'HEURE ESPAGNOLE/GIANNI SCHICCHI: Raoul/Puccini double bill in new productions by Marian Duncan, conducted by David Lloyd-Jones. Opera North, Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 445326). Tomorrow, 7.15pm, £4-£5.

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR: Blood may be green at the Coliseum, but for the other Scottish play it is unequivocally red in Stephen Unwin's Donizetti production. Effective sets by Bunny Christie. Civic Theatre, Salford (0724 840888). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £7.50-£8.50. Opera House, Buxton (0268 72190). Tues, 7.30pm, £5.50.

THE MERRY WIDOW: The Monday performance of Lehár's work at Buxton will be the first open to the benefit of the disabled and hard-of-hearing. Coliseum (as above). Sat, 7.30pm, £7.50-£8.50. Opera House (as above). Mon, Tues, 7.30pm, £5.50.

ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE: Revival of Gluck's opera in production by Philip Prowse, using his own designs. Cast includes Sally Burgess. Opera North, Grand Theatre (as above). Sat, Tues, 7.15pm, £4-£5.

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE: Keith Warner's hilarious GMS production for

D'Oyly Carte travels south. Cast includes Marilyn Hill Smith.

DE FREUBACHÜTZ: A stimulatingly original, if not wholly successful, view of Weber's arch-teutonic masterpiece by André Engel. Grand Theatre, Stevenage (0793 475175). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, £11-£15.

SHOW BOAT: In the wake of Opera North's triumphant production of the Jerome Kern/Oscar Hammerstein musical comes a more modest one from Blackpool Operatic Players.

Grand Theatre, Blackpool (0253 283725). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, £3-£5.

SALOMÉ: André Engel's excellent Richter-Strauss production, transferring to Scottish Opera from WNO, is a masterly, understated study in eroticism. The American soprano Cynthia Mekris heads a new cast.

Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234). Wed, 8pm, £5-£25.50.

DANCE

John Percival

LONDON

THE DYBØR: Kim Brandstrup's new work for London Contemporary Dance Theatre with JoAnn Fragoletti-Jensen's *Woman Talk* on Monmouth Street and a *Woman* by Mats Ceder.

The Place Theatre, Duke's Road, WC1 (01-367 0031). Tonight-Sat, 8pm.

ROTAL BALLET: Last performance this season of *Prince of the Peacock* (tonight), then Giselle with French guest Laurent Hilaire partnering Maria Almeida (tomorrow), and Sylvie Guillem with Jonathan Cope (Sat and Wed).

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066). Tues, 7.30pm, £2.50-£5.

OUTSIDE LONDON

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Civic Theatre, Salford (0724 840888). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £7.50-£8.50.

TURNING WORLD: A four-week international season opens with Caroline Mercadier's company from France in the comic *Hôtel des Fleurs* (Mon) and *Lié et Dror* and *Na Ben-Gal* from Israel in their prize-winning Two Room Apartment and a new work, *Dorothy* (Tues-Wed).

The Place Theatre, Duke's Road, WC1 (01-367 0031). Tonight-Sat, 8pm.

ELISIR D'AMORE: Jill Fowlie produces Donizetti for Bath Opera; conducted by Alan Burrows.

University Hall, Bath (0225 316006). Tonight, 7.30pm, £5.

OUTSIDE LONDON

WHO CARES? Balanchine's *Genre* ballet, *Scorch* Symphony and *Peppa*. *Peppa* ends Scottish Ballet's tour.

King's Theatre, Edinburgh (031 228 1201). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm-9.40pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, £5-£7.50.

DANCE WEEKEND: Performance by The Cholmondeleyes (tomorrow) and two days of workshops (Sat, Sun) with David Massingham.

The Mattingly, Eastern Lane, Berwick-upon-Tweed (0289 330999). Fri, 8pm, £3.75.

LA TRAVIATA: André Prokofiev's creation for London City Ballet at Brunton (tomorrow, Sat) and Wolverhampton (Tues, Wed).

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending April 14 1990

FICTION

1 *A Sensible Life*, Mary Wesley £12.95
2 *Golden Fox*, Wilbur Smith £14.99
3 *Titmuss Regained*, John Mortimer £13.99
4 *The Wimbledon Poisoner*, Nigel Williams £12.99
5 *The Buddha of Suburbia*, Hanif Kureishi £12.99

NON-FICTION

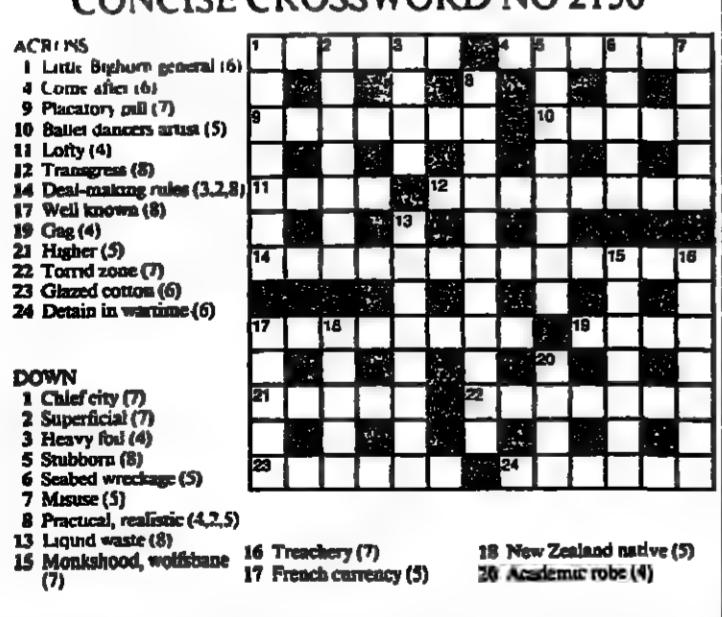
1 *Michelin 1990: France* £16.99
2 *Michelin 1990: Britain* £16.99
3 *The Abdication of Edward VIII*, Michael Bloch £14.95
4 *Pity the Nation*, Robert Fisk £17.95
5 *Winston & Clementine*, R. Chard Hough £16.95

PAPERBACKS

1 *Devices and Desires*, P. D. James £6.99
2 *A Year in Provence*, P. May £4.99
3 *House of Cards*, Michael Dobbs £3.99
4 *Silence of the Lambs*, Thomas Harris £3.99
5 *Heretic's Apprentice*, Ehs Peters £2.50
6 *On My Way to the Universe*, Ken Follett £2.99
7 *Portrait of a Woman*, William Golding £2.99
8 *The Bridesmaid*, Ruth Rendell £2.99
9 *The Negotiator*, Frederick Forsyth £2.99
10 *First Light*, Peter Ackroyd £2.99

Source: Hatchards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2156



WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

KALPA
(c) A day of Brahma, a thousand yugas, from the Sanskrit: "A great kalpa is the period beginning with the origin of the world and extending beyond its dissolution to the commencement of a new world."

GYNECIC
(a) Having to do with women, feminine, from the Greek *gyna*: woman: "All that gynecic crew, the fine, fat, fuming crew of flesh." From, like the Persian couch, the padded pillows of their houses, the bony soft bolster of their thighs."

STRUMMEL
(b) Scrub, from the Norman *estramme*, straw bedding: "You'll eat the goodman's meat, drink his drink, and sleep on the strummel in his barn."

STANDFIRST
(b) To provide a newspaper article with an oblique introductory blurb, summarizing its contents: "Standfirst, headlined, printed and delivered on year-breakfast table in 12 hours flat."

SOLUTION TO NO 2155
ACROSS: Hack 3 Swear 8 Poxing 10 Louis 11 Nics 12 Aden 13 Tie 15 Sir Thomas More 17 Eos 19 Sark 20 Recm 23 Maple 34 Hammer 25
Crest 26 Agate
DOWN: 1 Harbour 2 Coif 4 Wifiness 5 Adult 6 Spin 7 Psycho 9 Endow-
morph 14 Whiskers 15 Steams 16 Opencaug 18 Super 21 Markt 22 Frog

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

THEATRES

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

STARLIGHT EXPRESS

ENTERTAINMENTS

ENTERTAINMENTS</

Compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

Ruling the tabloid roost

Jasper Rees

• **Killer Bimbos** on Fleet Street, this week's *Forty Minutes* (BBC2, 9.30pm), takes as its premise the fact that there are many more women in power on the popular newspapers than there used to be. The programme begins by pointing out that this has not affected the quality of output: there is a woman picture editor at *The Star*, but there are still pictures of topless women in *The Star*.

Patsy Chapman, editor of *News of the World* (BBC2, 9.30pm)

The two most high-flying killer bimbos are Eve Pollard, the editor of *The Sunday Mirror*, and Patsy Chapman, the editor of *News of the World*. As the credits roll, there is a brief snippet of Chapman owing up to the fact that she does not have much of a conscience: it is a typically tabloid moment – a quotation taken out of context which paints the person who utters it in a poor light. But, as another killer bimbo points out, career girls don't cry. Cut to a scene in which said killer bimbo keeps an appointment with her acupuncturist, to whom she pours out her troubles. This light-hearted inquiry plays tabloid journalism at its own game. The glib, reductionist captions which crop up at the bottom of the screen grate after a while, but then so does the pro style they are parodying.

• The stock of French and Saunders (BBC2, 9.00pm) has risen as their stock of jokes has grown. The trusty "You're either that or me" / "You're upsetting me" gag is still there, but they have been joined by several new ones, including a series of well-judged send-ups of the rich and famous: tonight they dress up as Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell ("French and Saunders are a girl's best friend"). They seem to be everyone's best friend, as they have no trouble recruiting real live celebrities to appear in their sketches. They overrode tonight's penultimate show so much that, if you didn't know them better, you might suspect them of being camera shy.

• A Month in the Country (Channel 4, 9.30pm) was released as the Kenneth Branagh boom was gathering pace. Branagh's performance in this tale of trench-shock and recuperation is fine enough, but what makes Pat O'Connor's film especially mesmerizing is the measured emotional power of Colin Firth.

• This Week (ITV, 8.30pm) examines the "Battle for Peace" in the Middle East. Both the Israelis and the Palestinians are allowed to put their case: there are interviews with Shimon Peres and Yassir Arafat, plus the British heroine of the Beirut siege, Dr Pauline Carington.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW
News on the hour from 5.30am until 4.30pm, then at 7.30, 8.30 and 10.00am.
5.30am Radio 1 Breakfast 6.30-8.30
Steve Wright 6.30-9.30 Simon Bates
12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45
Gary Davies 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News 9.00
6.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Top of the Pops (with 9.00-10.00 John Peel)
10.00 Radio 1 Breakfast 8.30-9.30 Richard Skinner

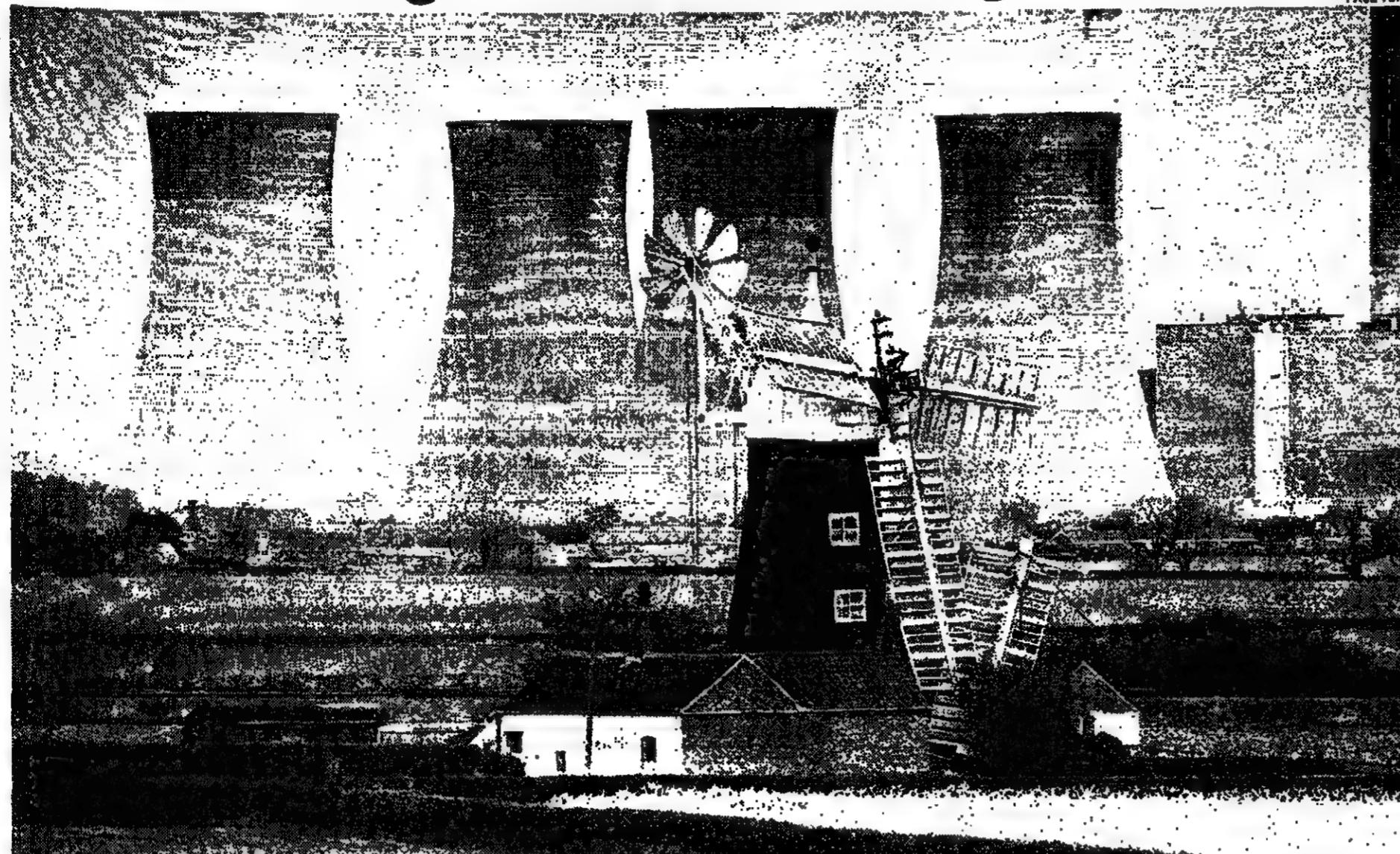
RADIO 2

FM Stereo
News on the hour from 6.30am, 8.30, 7.30, 8.30, 4.00am Steve Madden 5.30
David Allen 7.30 Chris Sturt 9.00
Judith Chalmers 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.00-2.00 News 2.00-3.00
Gordon Hunt 4.00 Bob Hobson 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 The News Huddles 7.30 Wally Whiston 8.00 Paul Jones 8.45
Heroes 10.00 Ken Bruce 12.00-13.00 Jazz Parade 12.00-13.00 When Young with Nelly Hughes 1.00-4.00 Nelly Hughes

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. Add an hour for BST.
5.00am News 5.00-6.00 24 Hours 5.30
London, Martin 5.55 Weather 6.00
Newsbeat 6.30-7.00 Children of the Ice 6.45
The Farming World 7.00-7.30 Home and Leisure 7.30-8.00 News 7.45-8.00
World 8.00 Words of Faith 8.15 Good Books 8.30 John Peel 9.00 World News 9.00-10.00 News 10.00-11.00
World Today 8.00 BBC News 8.00-9.00
Sports Roundup 8.00-9.00 Sports Roundup 9.00-10.00 Sports Roundup 10.00-11.00
Network 1.15 Jazz Scene 10.00
World News 1.45-2.45 Sports Roundup 1.45-2.45
Travel News 1.45-2.45 News 2.45-3.00
London Broadcast 11.15 News 11.25
World Cup 12.00 News 12.00-13.00
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World News 4.00-4.45 News 4.45-5.00
Sports Roundup 4.45-5.00 Sports Roundup 5.00-5.45
Network 5.45-6.00 News 6.00-6.45
World News 6.45-7.00 News 7.00-7.45
Commentary 7.15-8.00 Financial News 7.15-8.00
Travel News 7.15-8.00 News 8.00-8.45
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Network 163.45-164.00 News 164.00-164.45
World News 164.45-165.00 News 165.00-165.45
Sports Roundup 165.45-166.00 Sports Roundup 166.00-166.45
Network 166.45-167.00 News 167.00-167.45
World News 167.45-168.00 News 168.00-168.45
Sports Roundup 168.45-169.00 Sports Roundup 169.00-169.45
Network 169.45-170.00 News 170.00-170.45
World News 170.45-171.00 News 171.00-171.45
Sports Roundup 171.45-172.00 Sports Roundup 172.00-172.45
Network 172.45-173.00 News 173.00-173.45
World News 173.45-174.00 News 174.00-

Storm damage makes windmill grind to a halt



A 20ft, one-tonne sail of the 160-year-old windmill at North Leverton, near Retford, Nottinghamshire, languishing on a grain store roof where it crashed down during storms over Easter. Mr Keith Barlow, the miller, was explaining the workings of the machinery to a party of 20 visitors when the accident happened, and said it was lucky that no one was injured. He has launched a £10,000 restoration appeal for the mill, which has as a contrasting backdrop a newer energy source — the West Burton power station

Guides and Brownies only too prepared to don designer gear

By Ruth Gledhill

PROPELLED into the Brownies by a well-meaning mother in the late 1960s, the skimpy thin brown cotton dress, hideous though it was, initially seemed preferable to the bell-bottom trousers my classmates were donning.

We Brownies, officially called Brownie Guides and part of the Guide movement, faced a weekly crisis over commands from Brown Owl to "lead a hand", "do our best" and "hop, skip and jump" in games of tag.

It was impossible to do any of these or other tasks without splitting the cheap mud-brown cotton dress up the sides. As we sat in our small hall in a Staffordshire village, sewing on the badges which testified to our ability to light fires and set tables, we were consumed with envy for the cube and scouts with their woggles and whistles.

The launch yesterday by the Girl Guides Association of new uniforms for Brownie Guides, Rangers and Adult Guides has been hailed as a breakthrough for the

Guides and Brownies can now have stylish uniforms for

movement and its members. The new style was modelled by 120 Girl Guides, Brownies and Rangers.

Ten thousand Guides and Brownies had been polled for their suggestions, and fashion pundits and guide leaders who watched the fashion show at Central Hall in Westminster forecast that the new uniform would indeed help Guides be more adventurous and compete better with the Scout Association, which recently opened its tents to females.

The Girl Guides, who are seeking more adult volunteers, should now be able to attract more of the legions of Brownies who were put off, as I was, by their first sight of their elder sisters en masse.

Division of rows of Guides at a rally, in navy blue rayon, terylene and polyester, unflattering skirts above the knee and knee-length white socks, looking for all the world like traffic wardens, was enough to send my sister and I galloping to the nearest pony club.

Guides and Brownies can now have stylish uniforms for

formal occasions, camping and social events. Brownies will be free at last of the dreadful brown woolen bobble hat, the universally hated brown knitted cardigan and the yellow crossover tie.

Instead, the designer Jeff Banks, who has created the uniforms at no charge, has toned down the colour to a khaki "forest brown" and introduced sweatshirts and t-shirts with "sunshine yellow".

Guides stay in blue, but can break out into sweat pants, polo shirts, t-shirts and trousers. Rangers will be in aquamarine and navy in place of their former insipid blues.

Miss Emma Wright, aged eight, of the 2nd Worplesdon Brownie Pack near Guildford, Surrey, one of the models at yesterday's launch, commented: "There is a lot of yellow. But I still think we should be called Brownies and not 'yellowies'."

Princess Margaret, President of the Girl Guides Association, attended the launch in London yesterday of the uniforms, wearing her own double-breasted uniform (Liz Smith writes).

Mr Banks, who founded the Warehouse chain and presents *TV's Clothes Show*, commented on his design role: "I felt this brief was a goodie. It is a privilege and a pleasure to be involved with the Girl Guide movement."

He used the programme to canvass suggestions from Guides. It was clear they hated the dress and the brown woolly hat but liked the belt. "Working through box-loads of drawings, I got the drift of what was needed," he said.

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Race and sex law to extend to Bar

BARRISTERS are to be subject to the race relations and sex discrimination laws in their professional work under proposals announced yesterday by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General (Richard Ford writes).

The move is intended to eliminate discrimination and encourage a wider spread throughout chambers of black barristers, tending to be new sets. It is also intended to encourage white solicitors to go to black barristers and to prevent chambers discriminating against black lawyers seeking pupillages.

Sir Patrick said that amendments making barristers subject to the legislation would be introduced to the Courts and Legal Services Bill in the Commons. He told MPs during the Bill's second reading debate that the change would cover discrimination in professional relationships at the Bar and between barristers and persons instructing them.

The Government is also to introduce an amendment accepting that solicitor advocates should be bound by the general thrust of the cab-rank principle obliging barristers to accept any case brought to them.

Parliament, page 7
Leading article, page 13

Backbench rebellion fading over Hong Kong passports

Continued from page 1
enter the same lobby as the Tory rebels. Labour is opposing the Bill on the ground that it is elitist and divisive.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, will open for the Government, and Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will wind up in a debate which will be seen as

one of the biggest tests to date of the authority of the Prime Minister.

Persuasion by the Government whips over the Easter recess and yesterday appeared last night to have whittled down considerably the figure of more than 80 Conservative MPs who originally had said they could not support the

Government. It appears likely that only around half that number will vote against the committee stage on the floor of the House.

The rebellion leaders, who include Mr Tebbit, the former Conservative chairman, were holding meetings at the Commons last night and again this morning to co-ordinate tactics for the later stages of the Bill.

They are expected to urge opponents to vote for the procedural motion taking the committee stage on the floor of the House.

If

they will be pressing for enough of their number to be chosen for the standing committee stage of the Bill to be able to influence its final shape.

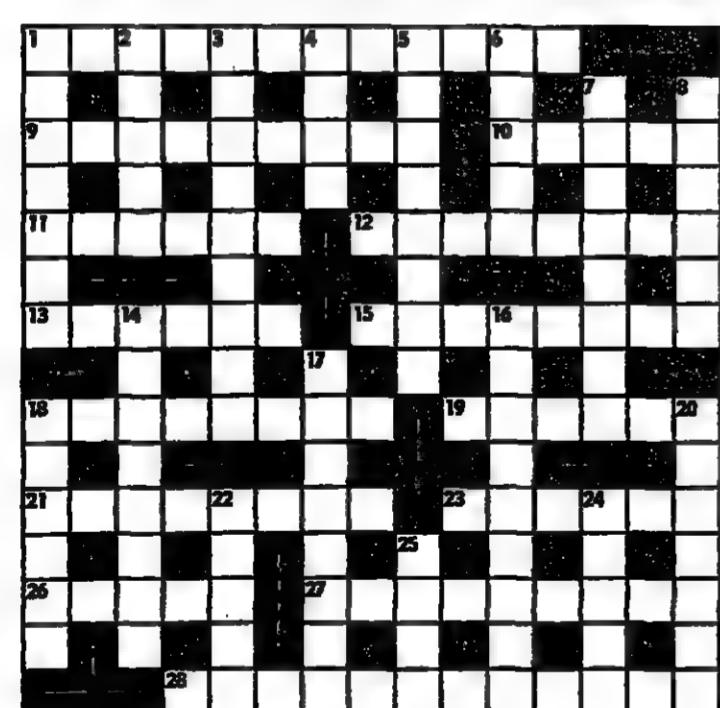
Mr Shore said that he would be abstaining and added that the Labour front-bench would have to make a good case to avoid the charge of "disreputable conduct".

Limited response, page 9
John Waddington, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Letters, page 13

Or were they?

Matthew Parris

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,272



WORD-WATCHING

A daily satir through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

KALPA

a. A skull-cap

b. A Sri Lankan pink banana

c. 4320 million years

GYNECIC

a. Feminine

b. Lubricious

c. Spirling clockwise

STRUMMEL

a. A primitive guitar

b. Straw

c. A mountain stream

STANDFIRST

a. Parade ground right-marker

b. A newspaper blurb

c. A Viking Ingwared

Answers on page 22

BUSINESS

THURSDAY APRIL 19 1990

SECTION 2

25

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-30
- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 31-34
- SPORT 44-48

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6360 (+0.045)
W German mark
2.7378 (-0.001)

Exchange Index
86.7 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1732.6 (-3.7)
FT-SE 100
2205.9 (-8.6)

USM (Datstream)
139.25 (-0.92)

Market report, page 28

Extra time won by Hoylake

AXA-MDI Assurances and Hoylake Investments have won two rounds in the battle for extra time to regroup their attack on BAT Industries and Farmers, the US insurance group. Texas and Oregon insurance regulators have allowed them up to two months to modify their offers.

The changes will be designed to head off objections which prompted California to reject both companies as owners of Farmers last week. BAT has lodged objections to all the requests for more time.

Paper group, page 26

Trans World up

Trans World Communications (formerly the Miss World Group) reports pre-tax profits of £4.56 million (£2.53 million) on a turnover of £12.7 million (£8.41 million) for 1989. A final dividend of 8p makes 12p (10p).

Tempus, page 26

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2751.35 (-14.42)
Tokyo
Nikkei Average: 2249.00 (+7.72/46)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 5082.35 (+31.91)

Amsterdam
Cexx: AO 120.2 (+1.4)

Stockholm: AO 1501.4 (+2.2)

Brussels
General 5122.64 (-18.49)

Paris: CAC 40 553.79 (+0.72)

Zurich: Spxx Gen 582.3 (-0.72)

London
FT-SE All-shares 1086.75 (-3.14)

FT-SE 500 1195.13 (-3.33)

FT: Gold Mines 248.0 (-2.6)

FT: Fixed Interest 85.55 (-0.16)

FT: Govt Secs 75.56 (-0.32)

Recent issues
Closing prices Page 26

Page 26
Page 28

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises:

Graham House 355p (+20p)

Hammerson A' 751p (+10p)

Waco 325p (+10p)

Nord Corp 522.5p (+20p)

TI 458.5p (+40p)

Falls:

Franklin Group 1035p (-10p)

Barclays 555p (-10p)

Hoyts 261p (-30p)

Nat West 333p (-12p)

Bordland 955p (-20p)

Micro Focus 567.7p (-40p)

UK Land 345p (-40p)

Hanney & Thompson 480p (-10p)

Programs 355p (-20p)

768p (-10p)

Brent Walker 2724p (-18p)

Carlton Comm 481p (-40p)

Glaxo 785p (-10p)

Commercial Union 452p (-10p)

Compass Group 310p (-8p)

Smoking products 18857

SEAC Volume 352.5p

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15%

3-month interbank 15%+15%

3-month eligible bills: 14%+14%

US Prime Rate: 10%

Federal Funds: 8%+8%

3-month Treasury bills: 7.75%+7.74%

30-year bonds: 9.5%+9.67%

CURRENCIES

London
New York
E: \$1.6380
E: DM1.6720*
E: SF17.0285
E: Ff16.1025
E: Yen155.10*
E: Index: 98.3

ECU 20.744043 SDR 29.798614

E: ECU 34.0000 E: SDR 25.1855

GOLD

London Fixing:

AM 3374.70 pm: \$374.75

0000 375.00 375.50 (2228.75)

New York:

Comex: \$374.80-\$375.30*

North Sea Oil:

Brent (Jun) \$16.45 bbl (\$17.25)

* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$

Austria Sch

Belgium Fr

Denmark Kr

Finland Mark

France Fr

Germany Dr

Hong Kong \$

Ireland Pt

Italy Yen

Netherlands Gld

Norway Kr

Portugal Esc

Spain Pts

Sweden Kr

Switzerland Fr

USA \$

Virginia Dlr

Notes: for small denominations bank notes only are supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travel cheques.

Retail Price Index: 102.2 (February)

* 10% off

** 10% off

*** 10% off

**** 10% off

***** 10% off

TEMPUS

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Ansett chooses Rolls for £60m engine deal

ANSETT Worldwide Aviation, the Australian aircraft-leasing group, has chosen Rolls-Royce RB211-535E4 engines for a new ordered additional 10 Boeing 757 aircrafts with options for two more. The order, including spares likely to be needed over the life of the aircraft, is worth more than £60 million to the Derby-based aero engine maker. With the new order, Ansett will have 38 Rolls-Royce-powered 757s plus the two options.

Other operators of the Boeing twin-Jet have also been turning in increasing numbers to Rolls-Royce, which is the choice of more than 70 per cent of users of the aircraft. Last year Rolls-Royce had firm orders for 178 engines with another 36 on the options list.

Acquisitions boost Aspen

Dinkie Heel lifts payout

ASPIRE Communications, the US specialist printing group, said contributions from acquisitions helped annual pre-tax profits to end-December rise 21 per cent to £6.02 million on turnover ahead 55.5 per cent to £58.7 million. The final dividend is improved to 5.4p (4.5p), making 7.8p (6.5p) for the year. Earnings per share slip from 33.2p to 32.9p.

Boost for Geers shares

GEERS Gross, the quoted advertising agency, saw its shares go ahead 5p to 30p on news of an increase in pre-tax profits from £479,000 to £706,000 in the year to end-December.

The full-year dividend is maintained at 1p, but Mr Robert Gross, the chairman, said there would be a return to higher dividends and a twice-yearly payment this year, which he forecast would show a greater percentage increase in profits than 1989's 47 per cent. Last year the company won 15 new accounts — none of which had an impact on that year's figures — and lost none, Mr Gross added.

T&S soars to £6.6m

ADT raises Christies role

PRE-TAX profits at T&S Stores, the confectionery, tobacco and newspaper group, rose from £3.03 million to £6.64 million in the year to end-December on turnover up 52 per cent to £197.1 million. Adjusted eps are up to 10.5p (9.89p). The final dividend rises to 2.5p (1.625p), making 4p (2.625p) for the year.

Setback for T&N bid

T&N, the engineering and motor components group, has hit a stumbling block in its \$190 million recommended offer for JP Industries, the US vehicle parts company. The US Federal Trade Commission has requested additional information in connection with its \$17.30-a-share tender offer.

T&N said it and JP will comply with the request "expeditiously." It has extended its tender offer to May 14 from April 26 because of the development. The deal is to be financed by a rights issue to raise a net £127 million. T&N will also take on debt of \$176 million.

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One way to save on going green

MOTORISTS visiting the Continent are being encouraged to raise their insurance cover. But, as Family Money on Saturday discovers, shopping around for such "green

Cards" may be the only way to save some unnecessary holiday bills. There is also a warning for bank customers who pay by giro credit.



WE ALL KNOW ONE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN BRIGHTON

HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ANOTHER

BRIGHTON IS A MAJOR COMMERCIAL CENTRE, AN INTERNATIONALLY REKNOWNED CONFERENCE CENTRE AND EXHIBITION VENUE AND FAMOUS HOLIDAY RESORT. AS PART OF ITS ON-GOING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME THE COUNCIL WISH TO SECURE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS RACECOURSE.

THEY ARE COMMITTED TO BRINGING THE BEST IN MODERN DAY RACING STANDARDS TO BRIGHTON AND OFFERING ADDITIONAL LEISURE FACILITIES WITH A BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. THEY FEEL THIS WOULD BE BEST ACHIEVED WITH THE HELP OF AN INNOVATIVE, FORWARD THINKING DEVELOPMENT PARTNER.

SI BUSINESS EXPRESSING INTEREST ARE WANTED AND SHOULD ANSWER:

- EXPERIENCE IN LEISURE MARKETING
- INVOLVEMENT IN AND/OR RACING KNOWLEDGE
- FINANCIAL STANDING AND CAPABILITIES
- ANY OTHER RELEVANT CREDENTIALS
- RESPONSE TO THE CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT AT THE RACECOURSE AND ANY INITIAL IDEAS

RESPONSES SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY 11TH MAY, 1990. THE TARGET DATE FOR A FINAL DECISION IS NOV. 1990.

PLEASE WRITE TO: JOHN CRAWFORD, BRIGHTON RACECOURSE, TOWN HALL, BRIGHTON.



BRIGHTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Room to improve at THF hotels

Michael Powell



Carrying the Miss World banner into its fortieth year: Owen Oyston, the group chief executive of Trans World Communications, yesterday

MR ROCCO Forte, chief executive of Trushouse Forte, was displaying suitable humility yesterday as he admitted his executives had taken their eyes off the ball and missed the downturn in the provincial hotels market by a crucial couple of months last summer.

Perhaps their attention was distracted by the unaccountable and unfounded bid speculation around them which pushed the shares above 350p at one stage. The inevitable adjustment has come since then, coinciding in the past couple of months with a downgrading for the hotels sector as a whole.

THF, after a change in its financial year-end to reduce seasonality, unveiled pre-tax profits from £283,000 to £418,000 in the year to end-December. Group turnover increased from £3.55 million to £7.95 million. Earnings per share rose by 26 per cent to 2.33p. The final dividend is improved to 0.6p (0.35p), making 0.95p (0.57p) for the year.

The laggard was hotels with a rise in trading profits, before higher interest charges, of 10 per cent year-on-year.

This compares with 27 per cent from contract catering, still finding extra work from the NHS, and 22 per cent from public catering and restaurants.

Analysts have great hopes for Mr Alan Hearn, who took over as managing director of hotels at the start of the year. There is much streamlining to be done within the division's structure and opportunities to prune labour costs if demand continues to slacken.

THF says the leisure market has been up, but harder times affected the corporate and conference side. The luxury

London market performed well, although there must be doubts about Japanese visitors this summer. The US continues to do poorly, and THF is cautious about forecasting any immediate sharp improvement.

The shares followed the market, marked higher before drifting lower to end 7p down at 254p. Pre-tax profits of £285 million this year would put the shares on a multiple of about 9, a little below the sector average, while a 15 per

cent dividend increase suggests a prospective yield of 3.8. Any flight to quality in the battered hotels sector in coming months and the shares could see some support.

Austin Reed

Austin Reed would do well to keep an eye on events at Aquascutum, where rebel shareholders are attempting to win full voting rights for the A shares. Poor trading performances can be just the trigger

for action by disgruntled shareholders, and Reed's tiered equity structure would look even more vulnerable should the Aquascutum board be overpowered.

With 30 per cent of its business in menswear, which traditionally sits worse than women's and children's clothing when times are hard, Reed saw pre-tax profits fall from £8.1 million to £6.9 million in the year to January, their lowest for three years. The trading profit was maintained

at £9.2 million but included £900,000 of property profits. Turnover rose from £78.9 million to £84.9 million. Earnings fell from 18.7p to 17.3p and the final dividend is up from 6p to 6.5p, making 9.5p, against 9p.

UK sales increased by 4 per cent with women's wear up 8 per cent. The interest charge rose from £1.76 million to £3 million and the group has cut stock levels and capital spending. Gearing is about 23 per cent and should come down to nearer 11 per cent.

Although the group has run an eye over Wetherall, the painwear manufacturer, now in receivership, it has decided not to buy it and there are no plans for further retail acquisitions.

Reed appears to be doing the right things to lessen the effects of the consumer squeeze and looks set to make about £5.5 million before property profits, according to Kleworn Benson. That puts the A shares, up 5p at 150p, on a p/e of 10.

If Austin Reed is forced to abandon its two-tier share structure, it could not fail to help the share price. The shares are a strong hold.

Trans World Communications

THE vital financial statistics of Trans World Communications (formerly Miss World Group) may appear pleasing but there is — as yet — little reason to be carried away. Pre-tax profits for 1989 rose from £2.53 million to £4.56 million and turnover from £8.41 million to £12.72 million.

However, the results have been greatly helped by eight

and a half months of Piccadilly Radio, whose precise contribution Trans World will not divulge and, yet at the same time, progress was restrained by some inherited problems.

Advertising revenue from group radio stations jumped by 80.7 per cent, but again the numbers are not disclosed and Trans World is rightly cautious about the outlook.

After the doubled interim dividend, to 4p a share (largely to reduce the disparity), the final is held at 8p, payable on June 20, to make 12p (10p).

The Miss World contest, which suffered in the first half from the decision by Thames Television not to renew its screening contract, was held abroad for the first time and contributed £248,000 compared with £789,000.

This year marks the fortieth year of the Miss World pageant and next year the US market will be open again to the group, so better results should be on the boards.

Preliminary details of the balance sheet suggest net borrowings up from £1 million to £3.5 million and a negative £3 million of tangible assets.

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Runciman soars as Avena lifts bid

By Melinda Wittstock



Stephen Wicks: smooth progress towards demerger

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

WIGGINS Teape Appleton (WTA), the BAT Industries merged paper group due for a Stock Exchange listing on June 1, will have a strong financial base offering the chance of expansion, according to Mr Stephen Wicks, WTA's chairman and chief executive.

He gave his views while setting out the capital structure planned for WTA, which is being demerged from BAT in the wake of the group's flotation of the Argos stores chain. It is part of BAT's defensive policy against a threatened £13.4 million takeover by Sir James Goldsmith's Hoylake.

WTA will be the biggest British-owned paper company and the fourth largest in Europe. Analysts' assessments of WTA's value vary between £1.2 billion and £1.5 billion, with the higher figure reflecting the possibility of takeover. It should make the FT-SE 100.

Under the intended financial structure, WTA would have had about £670 million in shareholder funds at the end of last year, taking into account capital adjustments to be made before the demerger of WTA from BAT.

WTA would have shown at the year-end a net indebtedness of about £170 million, excluding about £45 million of trade debts financed off balance sheet.

In the year to end-December, WTA had a turnover of

£1.5 billion and a trading profit of £201 million, including its share of trading profits of associated companies.

Mr Wicks said: "Progress towards demerger is proceeding smoothly. Based on this level of debt, WTA will have a strong financial base from which we can expand the business after demerger."

Mr Wicks' priorities for WTA will include organic growth, but possible acquisitions will also be considered in order to strengthen the drive for such growth. He believes there are synergies which can be exploited between the US-based Appleton and Wiggins Teape.

However, he realises that WTA could become a takeover target because it operates at the high value-added end of the paper business. WTA will be the world's biggest producer of carbonless paper, and Europe's leading manufacturer of thermal papers, typically used in fax machines.

Listing details for WTA are due out on May 10, and BAT meetings on the demerger are scheduled for May 31. There will be an issue of free shares to BAT holders for the demerger. WTA is to establish a London headquarters. Appleton will continue to deal with its home market, while Wiggins Teape, still to be operationally-based at Basingstoke, Hampshire, will continue to focus on Europe.

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In the year to end-December, WTA had a turnover of

Prestwick payout held despite drop

By Phillipa Pungulane

0.5p. Telecommunications used to account for 27 per cent of orders but now accounts for only 6 per cent.

Mr Alistair McKie, a director, said orders for the computer, facsimile and photocopier sectors, which now make up 74 per cent of orders, were "gaining ground."

The company said that the replacement of BT (telecommunications) business had been achieved, although it is unlikely that full-year profits would match last year's.

The shares lost 1p to 32p on the news.

Profits fall at Densitron

DENSITRON International, the electronic components maker, said pre-tax profits fell from £1.63 million to £1.11 million in the year to end-December. Turnover edged ahead from £22.9 million to £23 million. Earnings fell from 5.49p to 3.6p but the final dividend is maintained at 1.65p, making 2.35p.

The company said that the replacement of BT (telecommunications) business had been achieved, although it is unlikely that full-year profits would match last year's.

The shares lost 1p to 32p on the news.

One of the factors in producing a mass market for mobile communications will be the need felt by many women and older people for more flexible communications as personal security becomes an increasing worry, says the survey.

A more mobile population will also mean a greater need for telephone communication with members of a family and friends, the report suggests.

Consortium poised to enter new mobile phone market

Rabbit jumps out of Telepoint hat

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

US law threatens BTR hopes of quick victory

From John Deric, New York

BTR's chances of a quick victory in its \$1.6 billion takeover bid for Norton diminished with the passing of a law by the Massachusetts government preventing wholesale board changes.

Under the law, signed by Governor Michael Dukakis, board changes are possible only every year, with just one-third of the board positions open at each election.

The legislation, which was rushed through to help Norton, effectively prevents BTR from winning board control at Norton at its annual meeting on April 26.

It also triggers two other

anti-takeover statutes in Massachusetts which effectively stop BTR from gaining full control of Norton without either board approval or 90 per cent of the Norton shares. BTR has claimed acceptance for 64 per cent of Norton.

A spokesman for BTR said: "The staggered board legislation does not diminish BTR's intention to proceed with the takeover."

He added that no increase in the \$75-a-share bid was being considered and that a constitutional challenge to the new legislation had not been ruled out. Norton has also lodged an appeal against last

week's court ruling which forced it to revert to the April 26 annual meeting date after the company had previously announced a two-month extension pending consideration of the BTR offer.

As things stand, BTR could win four of the 12 board seats at the April 26 meeting and then hope for a change of mind from the other board members or significant outside shareholder support to advance its takeover claims.

The US pension fund industry has recently signalled its hostility to anti-takeover laws in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Under the

Shearson loses record \$900m

From Our Correspondent

New York

SHEARSON Lehman Hutton yesterday reported a record Wall Street loss of more than \$900 million after taking a \$630 million restructuring charge.

The first-quarter loss also included a \$120 million operating loss, based on a downturn in trading income and \$75 million in provisions to cover legal costs and bad loans for its subsidiary Boston

Business Commodity Statute in Massachusetts, if a company does not have board approval or 90 per cent of the shares in a company it cannot proceed with a merger for three years after the takeover was announced.

Under the Massachusetts Shareholder Control legislation, a company cannot vote more than 20 per cent of its shares unless it has 90 per cent of the shares or board approval.

Mr John Nelson, Norton's chairman and chief executive, welcomed the quick passage of the suggested board legislation.

This basic underlying inflationary pressure is hard to counteract by productivity at a time of slack or falling output except through the early Eighties expedient of a real recession. The Chancellor must calculate that he cannot afford that politically, just as he cannot afford to gamble economically by stimulating an output recovery by easing interest rates much before the autumn.

He may well, therefore, get the recession anyway since he has little option meanwhile but to sit back, let things happen and hope that international interest rate movements and the vicissitudes of currency markets do not make things even worse. In practice, this may prove to be worse for the share markets and for the real economy than for the Government's political chances.

The latest upward movement in the 12-month growth of earnings has come just at the moment when industrial output has started turning down over a broad range. The almost inevitable result is that the growth of unit wage costs in manufacturing — the best part of the economy — has accelerated to an unacceptable 6.8 per cent in the latest three months to February.

If the prospect of doggedly buoyant consumer demand is no longer a serious question mark over policy, however, it has been replaced by a dilemma which is more serious because it is more intractable. The economic scissors between falling demand and output and rising pay is worsening.

The latest upward movement in the 12-month growth of earnings has come just at the moment when industrial output has started turning down over a broad range. The almost inevitable result is that the growth of unit wage costs in manufacturing — the best part of the economy — has accelerated to an unacceptable 6.8 per cent in the latest three months to February.

Underlying inflation may be intractable. But falling mortgage rates, lower poll taxes and a 1991 standstill on RPI-sensitive duties could easily bring the nominal rate of inflation almost as far below the underlying rate in the summer of 1991 as it has been above over the past few months.

It said revenues from investment banking and interest and dividend income were down while trading commission and asset management fees increased slightly.

Solomon Brothers has also indicated it will show a strong profit improvement when it reports next week.

Shearson's problems have led to its parent company, American Express, injecting \$1.4 billion cash into the firm over the last three months and taking full control of its formerly 60 per cent-owned subsidiary.

Shearson, which is carrying bridging loans of \$600 million, is looking to sell the \$1.4 billion loan portfolio owned by its property division, Balcon, which is also dogged by potentially bad property loans.

The company also lost \$157 million because of a change in accounting policies in the quarter.

Shearson has cut staff by 2,000 this year.

Earlier this week it said it was creating a world-wide equity division under the control of Mr Peter DePuzzo and Mr Jack Rivkin.

Genuine attempts to secure agreed deals.

BTR, whose bid for Norton could be endorsed by Governor Dukakis, has

developed a taste for hostile bids of late.

But the distinctly tactless tactics of its

Norton offer — first communicated via a

telephone call at 6.15am — were dictated by the perceived need to see the bid

battle in terms of a legal battle.

Such legal campaigns often merely extend the agony once, as in this case, the bidding company has secured provisional acceptances of a bid from a substantial majority of a company's shares. The likely result will still be a negotiated higher offer, now that the equally destructive alternative of the highly leveraged management buyout is overshadowed by America's junk heap.

The takeover industry, which has become the main means of increasing demand for shares to realize value, is at best an extremely inefficient mechanism that brings the free market into public dispute. Laws simply designed to frustrate the expressed wishes of a company's shareholders just bring the law equally into dispute, rather than addressing the underlying issue of supply and demand imbalances in the financial markets.

COMMENT

The economic scissors pose a Major dilemma

Tighter belts pinch Austin Reed

By Gillian Bowles

AUSTIN Reed, the up-market menswear retailer, saw pre-tax profits for the year to January fall from £28.1 million to £5.9 million, their lowest for three years.

Mr Barry Reed, chairman, said that when family budgets are tight, men buy fewer clothes than women.

Turnover rose from £78.9 million to £84.9 million and earnings per share fell from 18.7p to 17.3p. The final dividend is up from 6p to 6.5p, making 9.5p, up from 9p for the year.

Mr Reed said he was concerned about the group of rebel shareholders at Aquascutum, who are trying to enfranchise the non-voting shares.

"In countries like Switzerland numerous devices are used to protect family businesses and on the whole they are welcomed," he said.

He said the board looked at the possibility of enfranchising the non-voting Austin Reed shares from time to time but had no plans to do so in the near future.

The non-voting shares rose 5p to 150p.

Times, page 26



Feeling the spending squeeze: Barry Reed, chairman of Austin Reed, yesterday

Helical assets per share leap by 43%

By Matthew Bond

THE policy of buying in shares has paid off handsomely at Helical Bar, the property company which used to develop City fringe office blocks but is now 75 per cent invested in provincial industrial property.

Yesterday the chairman, Mr Michael Slade, revealed an increase in net assets per share of 43 per cent to 42p. This includes a £19.7 million revaluation of the group's trading profits.

During the year, Mr Slade said, the company had bought in about 12 per cent of the company's equity and would continue to buy if the shares continued to trade at a substantial discount to assets.

"We saw value at 35p, and we see even more value now," said Mr Slade, adding that the company currently had £30 million cash in the bank. The shares closed up 9p at 26p.

Helical Bar was the top-

Profits lifted 77% at new-look Rea

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

REA Brothers, the merchant bank, has started to prosper under its new management. Pre-tax profits in 1989 rose 77 per cent to £1.1 million.

The core of the bank's profits still comes from the Channel Islands subsidiary, which manages the bulk of its £200 million deposits.

The new executives include Mr Christopher Norland, the former chief executive of Ifico, who is building Rea's corporate client list, specializing in smaller companies.

The bank is also planning to treble its funds under management within three years to bring it into profit.

It has targeted smaller company pension funds and two accounts have increased its funds by 30 per cent. The business however is expected to continue losing money this year.

The changes are being inspired by Mr Roger Parsons, who arrived as joint managing director in October 1988. He

is the new chairman of the board.

The two disposals produced an extraordinary profit of £725,000, although the travel business made a further exceptional profit of £348,000 from compensation for moving out of its offices in the City.

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the dividend amount. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. But if you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Symbol	Price Bid Offer	Change in P %	Open V P %	Close V P %
1	Woolworths Plc	Chemicals, Plas					
2	Black (A&C)	Newspapers, Pub					
3	Furness Sheet	Industrials E-K					
4	Phone-Mc	Industrials I-R					
5	Fusco	Chemicals, Plas					
6	Br Land (ns)	Property					
7	Town Centre	Property					
8	Bowes & Hawkes	Leisure					
9	Dunlop Head	Industrials A-D					
10	Southerns	Newspapers, Pub					
11	McAlpine (Alfred)	Building, Roads					
12	Unilever (ns)	Industrials S-Z					
13	Maria Spencer (ns)	Drapery, Stores					
14	Paxton (ns)	Newspapers, Pub					
15	Redland (ns)	Building, Roads					
16	Mutuals	Building, Roads					
17	RMC (ns)	Building, Roads					
18	Red Group	Industrials I-R					
19	Fliteking	Property					
20	Blue Circle (ns)	Building, Roads					
21	Owners Abroad	Leisure					
22	BOC (ns)	Industrials A-D					
23	PPG Hodson	Industrials I-R					
24	Hawker Siddeley (ns)	Industrials E-K					
25	Taylor Woodrow (ns)	Building, Roads					
26	Bank Of Scotland	Banks, Discount					
27	Cresta	Industrials A-D					
28	Smiths Ind (ns)	Industrials S-Z					
29	Kleen-Eze	Industrials E-K					
30	Guinness (ns)	Breweries					
31	Westpac	Banks, Discount					
32	Swiss Pacific "A"	Industrials S-Z					
33	Step Furnishers	Industrials S-Z					
34	Smurfit (Jeff)	Paper, Print, Adv					
35	Graig	Transport					
36	De Morgan						
37	Austin Reed	Drapery, Stores					
38	Br Aerospace (ns)	Motors, Aircraft					
39	Bradford	Property					
40	THORN EMI (ns)	Electronics					
41	Globe Groves	Paper, Print, Adv					
42	NPC	Transport					
43	ECC Group (ns)	Industrials E-K					
44	High Point	Industrials E-K					
	C Times Newspapers Ltd.	Daily Total					

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total

Three winners shared yesterday's £2,000 prize in the Portfolio Platinum competition. They were Mr John Walby, from Shevington in Merseyside, Mrs Lily Collins, from Leeds, and Mr Simon Lillington, from Fownhope in Dorset. They will each receive £666.66.

BRITISH FUNDS

No.	Fund	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Per cent Chg
1	Shorts (Under Five Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
2	Shorts (5-10 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
3	Shorts (10-15 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
4	Shorts (15-20 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
5	Shorts (20-25 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
6	Shorts (25-30 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
7	Shorts (30-35 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
8	Shorts (35-40 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
9	Shorts (40-45 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
10	Shorts (45-50 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
11	Shorts (50-55 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
12	Shorts (55-60 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
13	Shorts (60-65 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
14	Shorts (65-70 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
15	Shorts (70-75 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
16	Shorts (75-80 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
17	Shorts (80-85 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
18	Shorts (85-90 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
19	Shorts (90-95 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
20	Shorts (95-100 Years)	205	195	195	195	195	0
21	Over Fifteen Years	205	195	195	195	195	0
22	Index-Linked	205	195	195	195	195	0
23	Undated	205	195	195	195	195	0
24	Five to Fifteen Years	205	195	195	195	195	0
25	Over Fifteen Years	205	195	195	195	195	0
26	Five to Fifteen Years	205	195	195	195	195	0
27	Over Fifteen Years	205	195	195	195	195	0
28	Index-Linked	205	195	195	195	195	0
29	Undated	205	195	195	195	195	0
30	Banks, Discount HP	205	195	195	195	195	0
31	Chemicals, Plas	205	195	195	195	195	0
32	Electricals	205	195	195	195	195	0
33	Drapery, Stores	205	195	195	195	195	0
34	Finance, Land	205	195	195	195	195	0
35	Food, Farming	205	195	195	195	195	0
36	Financial Trusts	205	195	195	195	195	0
37	Hotels, Caterers	205	195	195	195	195	0
38	Industrial A-D	205	195	195	195	195	0
39	Industrial S-Z	205	195	195	195	195	0
40	Leisure	205	195	195	195	195	0
41	Motors, Aircraft	205	195	195	195	195	0
42	Overseas Traders	205	195	195	195	195	0
43	Platinum	205	195	195	195	195	0
44	Textiles	205	195	195	195	195	0
45	Tobaccos	205	195	195	195	195	0
46	Transport	205	195	195	195	195	0
47	Water	205	195	195	195	195	0
48	Oils, Gas	205	195	195	195	195	0
49	Chemicals, Plas	205	195	195	195	195	0
50	Electricals	205	195	195	195	195	0
51	Finance, Land	205	195	195	195	195	0
52	Food, Farming	205	195	195	195	195	0
53	Financial Trusts	205	195	195	195	195	0
54	Hotels, Caterers	205	195	195	195	195	0
55	Industrial A-D	205	195	195	195	195	0
56	Industrial S-Z	205	195	195	195	195	0
57	Leisure	205	195	195	195	195	0
58	Motors, Aircraft	205	195	195	195	195	0
59	Overseas Traders	205	195	195	195	195	0
60	Platinum	205	195	195	195	195	0
61	Textiles	205	195	195	195	195	0
62	Tobaccos	205	195	195	195	195	

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

- INVENTION: POST OFFICE FOILS ARSONISTS
- SCIENCE: FEARS OVER WONDER GRASS
- TECHNOLOGY: SECOND-HAND SATELLITES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

THURSDAY APRIL 19 1990

Head start for the hi-tech surgeons

Exact 3D models of patients' heads and hips, designed by a computer and used to rehearse difficult operations, are being tested by hospitals, reports Thomson Prentice

Complex operations that would have been impossible only a few years ago are being performed by surgeons who first rehearse their techniques on exact replicas of their patients' skulls. The models are constructed from three-dimensional computer images, produced by hi-tech body scanners which supply richly detailed maps of individual patients, revealing the nature of their underlying conditions or injuries.

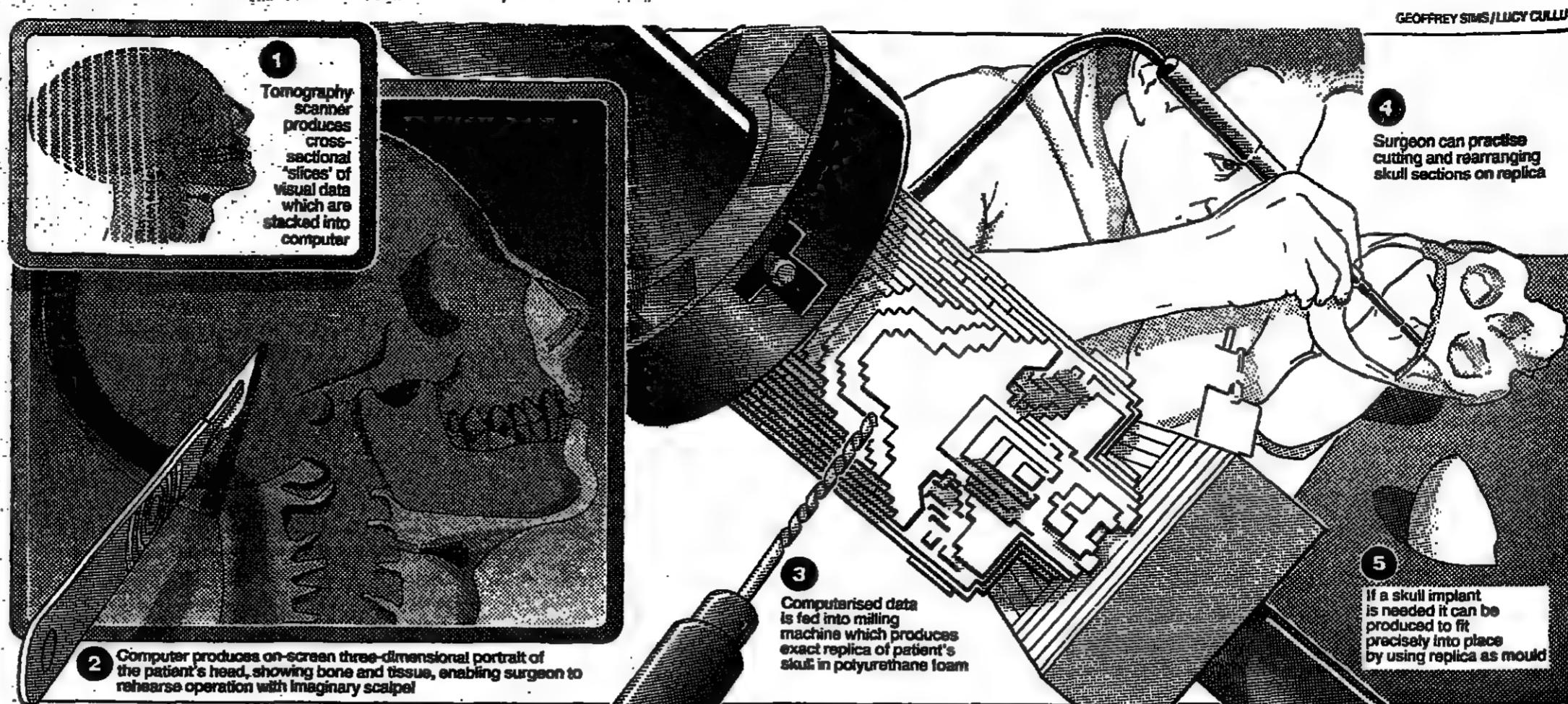
The latest methods of reconstructive surgery are being developed in an experimental project in The Netherlands and, if successful, could transform the lives of many people who have been physically and psychologically scarred by severe congenital malformations, accidents or illnesses.

Last month, a 20-year-old Dutchman, who was born with a grossly receding forehead and misaligned eye sockets, underwent the first full-scale operation in the project.

Without these new techniques surgeons would have dared to operate on him; the complexities were enormous," says Dr Frans Zonneveld, the medical physicist who pioneered the work at Philips Medical Systems laboratories in Eindhoven, and the University Hospital, Utrecht.

The surgeons rehearsed the cutting and reshaping of the patient's skull with a polyurethane foam model, built from information provided by computed tomography (CT) scans of his head. The scanner produces countless cross-sectional images of the head in the form of "slices", which are then stored in a computer to create a volume of data.

The computer operators then constructed a three-dimensional portrait of the patient's head on their display screen, by highlighting separate densities of bone, blood vessels, fat and tissue in different colours, and combining images of the head taken from a variety of angles. Using these 3D



techniques, the surgeons could rotate the on-screen image to view it from all directions to observe abnormalities and "cut" it with an imaginary scalpel, planning each of the procedures they would employ in the actual operation.

"One particular value of this part of the process is that it eliminates the need for exploratory operations," Dr Zonneveld says.

The computerized information was then fed into a milling machine to cut and shape the replica, to an accuracy of within one millimetre, from a block of rigid polyurethane foam with similar mechanical properties to bone. This allowed it to be cut using standard surgical instruments.

Other foam or resin-based materials tested by the researchers were rejected as either too hard or too brittle.

If a prosthetic implant had been required for the patient, it would have been a simple matter to produce one that fitted exactly, with no need to trim bone.

The model was produced in a few hours and helped surgeons to understand the configurations of the patient's deformities, and to move and rearrange sections of the skull in a rehearsal of the corrective procedures.

The actual operation, to bring the patient's forehead forward and

expand the eye sockets, took nine hours and was carried out at the Utrecht hospital by a team including Dr Noorman van der Dussen, a maxillofacial surgeon; Dr Nico Bosma, a neurosurgeon; and Professor Ben de Jong, a plastic surgeon.

"He is making a rapid and remarkable recovery and we can expect him to have a vastly improved quality of life as a result of the surgery," Dr Zonneveld says.

The importance of these techniques is that we can now offer hope to patients with gross congenital malformations, sufferers of head tumours and victims of serious accidents, many of whom have such complex problems that they have been beyond the skills of the best surgeons.

At best, all the necessary reconstructive surgery can now be contemplated in one operation, rather than a series of operations in those cases which have been suitable for surgery at all. This reduces the costs, the time, and the hazards involved."

Doctors at Utrecht and at the University Hospitals of Amsterdam and Rotterdam have commissioned a number of other replicas as on behalf of a growing waiting list of patients, including several children, who have been referred to them for similar surgery.

Professor Angus McGrouther, Britain's only professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery, at

University College Hospital, London, predicts increasing use of these and similar techniques internationally.

"Severe facial deformities may require extensive surgery on the bone of the skull and facial skeleton to achieve a correction," he says. "Three-dimensional mod-

elling and move even before the operation begins.

The results will be artificial joints which have been "tuned" so precisely that the devices will last decades longer than they do at present, and be less expensive to make," Prof Taylor says.

American specialists expect the number of such implants to increase substantially in the coming years, given the rise in the proportion of elderly patients. Already, some 200,000 artificial hip joints are implanted each year in the United States.

At present, a surgeon chooses an implant for a patient from a limited number of standard-sized devices, by superimposing a succession of silhouette templates over X-rays of the joint.

Even with X-rays as guides, however, several sizes must be available in the operating theatre because the real, three-dimensional joint may be surprisingly different from that protrayed in a two-dimensional X-ray.

The new techniques are being extended to other parts of the body, such as the hip and limbs. In New York, Professor Dean Taylor, of Cornell University, predicts that orthopaedic surgeons will soon be able to manipulate an on-screen image of a patient's hip or knee in order to tailor artificial joints, and to test how it will fit

and move even before the operation begins.

The results will be artificial joints which have been "tuned" so precisely that the devices will last decades longer than they do at present, and be less expensive to make," Prof Taylor says.

The combination of CT scans and graphics to display information to surgeons means we can achieve a much better fit and design for hip implants," Prof Taylor says.

He adds: "It is reasonable to expect these improved devices to last longer. The system allows the surgeon to determine potential problems before the operation, and increases his productivity."

Prof Taylor was describing the advances in hip and knee joints at a meeting in the United States to discuss advances made possible by the application of supercomputers to biomechanics.

With artificial joints designed and machined in the hospital's biomechanics laboratory adjacent to the operating theatre, the 3D computer graphics allow a "rehearsal" of the surgery in such detail that the surgeon can test how the implant fits and moves in the patient before the procedure has started.

Supercomputers are needed to process the immensely elaborate mathematical model that has been constructed for structural analysis, and which is employed for showing how the bone of an individual patient will respond to implants by changing their geometry and material properties.

In an emergency, a new joint can be designed, machined and tested before surgery in a week.

ment of tissue that causes dislocation.

Prof Taylor says reduction of costs is also an important goal in the computer-tailored hip and knee joints project, and wrist, shoulder and implants.

He estimates that in the United States large orthopaedic hospitals keep an inventory of hip and knee replacements worth up to \$5 million (about £3 million).

Replacement of the present generation of hip joints, which last about 10 years, is usually necessary because of loosening of the joint or bone or breakage of the implant because dynamic nature of the environment of the body into which it is inserted.

Prof Taylor says: "Designing an artificial joint is not like designing the suspension of the landing gear of aircraft. The living skeleton is not an inert system; it is very active with the bone adjusting itself to altered loads. It is also an tough chemical environment."

Supercomputers are needed to process the immensely elaborate mathematical model that has been constructed for structural analysis, and which is employed for showing how the bone of an individual patient will respond to implants by changing their geometry and material properties.

In an emergency, a new joint can be designed, machined and tested before surgery in a week.

Hubble launch advanced

The Hubble Space Telescope is now expected to go into orbit next week, Nasa says

Space experts yesterday successfully tested a new hydraulic power unit aboard the Shuttle space-craft Discovery, opening the possibility that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) may be able to advance the date of the delayed launch of the Hubble Space Telescope to next week.

A Nasa official said: "We can now lay out the rest of the activities that are necessary to complete between now and launch and we can gauge the time to see if we can make the launch on April 24 or 25."

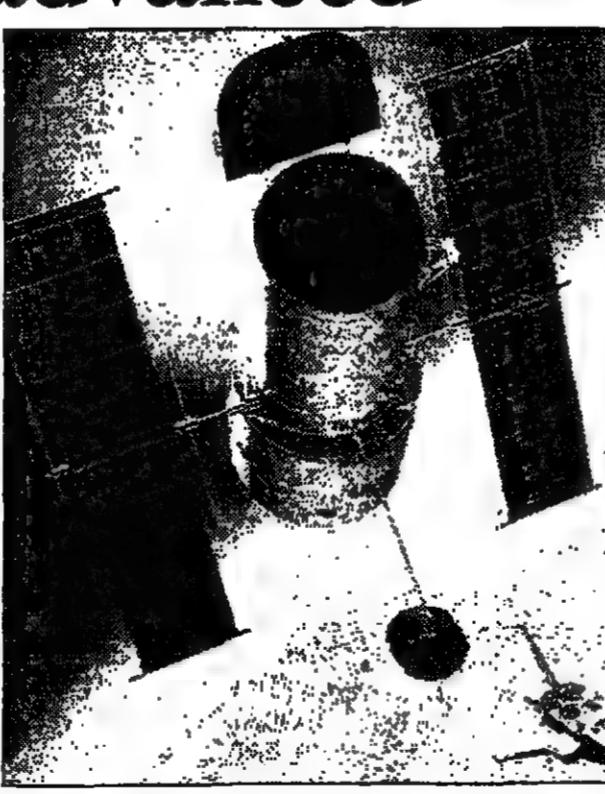
The first attempt to launch the \$1.5 billion (nearly £1 billion) space telescope, which should give astronomers a 10 times sharper view of stars

and galaxies, was delayed last Thursday with only four minutes left to countdown.

A decision is expected today if engineers are satisfied with a further overnight checks on a new power steering unit.

The most expensive satellite ever built was grounded by a fault in one of the auxiliary power units, APUs, of the Shuttle. A replacement APU, which will provide hydraulic steering power to the Shuttle's engines and wing flaps, was installed in Discovery's equipment at the weekend.

It passed stringent tests in a critical five-minute "hot firing" yesterday. The replacement work, never before attempted at the launch pad with a Shuttle in the vertical position, along with work to recharge the space telescope's batteries, prompted Nasa managers to consider a lift-off for 8.30am April 25, 15 days late. With repair work proceeding better than expected, they are prepared to move the flight up one day further if results from the APU test and



The \$1 billion telescope, delayed by a Shuttle fault

Electric car age dawns

A battery the size of a coin is being tested by scientists in Japan

made in any shape. It could be attached to a car's bumper or roof.

The companies have mentioned home appliances and cars as potential uses, but industry analysts say application details are fuzzy, and so are technical specifics, such as the batteries' lifetimes.

But Isuzu Motors is already tinkering on an electric car design using its new invention. It hopes that the battery's short recharging time and its expanded power can snap the lead that has tied most electric cars to the drawing board.

Present car batteries are bulky and need several hours to recharge.

Isuzu says its version is almost everlasting and can be

electric car a practical possibility.

Isuzu's associate, General Motors, unveiled an experimental electric car called Impact last year, and is studying its commercial feasibility.

"Isuzu's battery with GM's car could put the two companies in the lead in the race to commercialize the electric car," says Stephen Marvin, auto analyst at Jardine Fleming Securities.

"The new battery of itself does not make the electric car feasible but it could provide the basis for further research that could bring the commercialization of the electric car closer," Mr Marvin adds.

Most auto companies are working to develop such a car, which would not directly rely on the fuels that release harmful gases into the air.

But the day when drivers can fill up their batteries with "juice" at their local service station is still distant.

The test speeds of existing prototypes are less than 30 kilometres (18 miles) an hour and prices are astronomical.

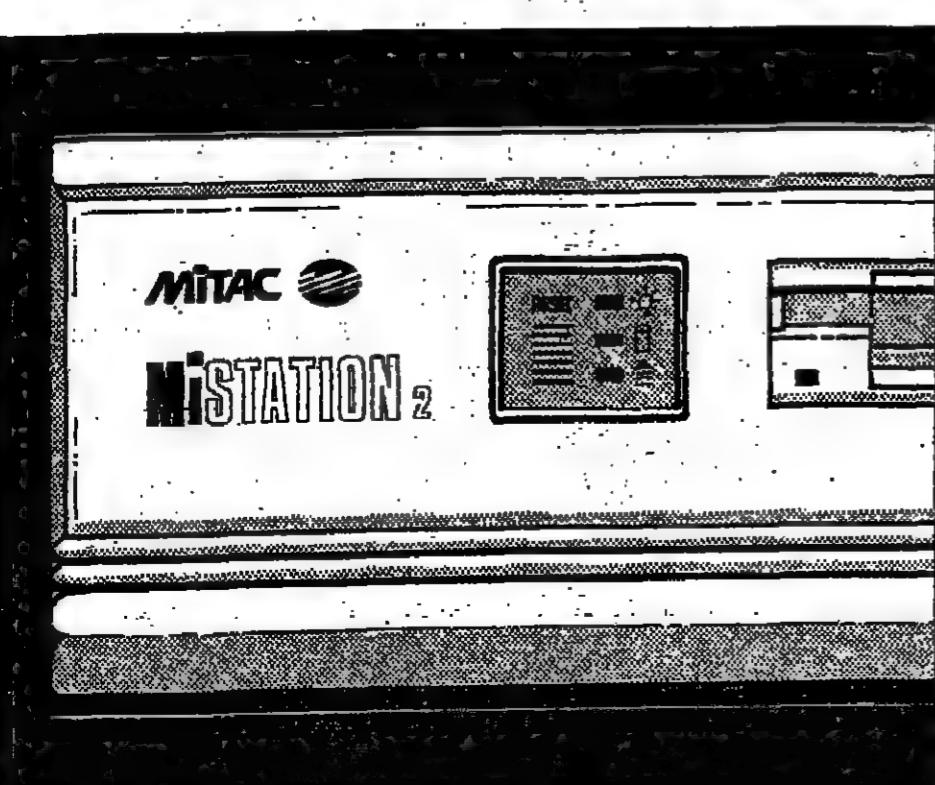
ONLY 3" IN HEIGHT BUT ALREADY DWARFING THE COMPETITION.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Postmen foil the arsonists

An alarming increase in arson attacks, particularly on council houses, has led the Post Office to launch a range of letterboxes that automatically extinguish fires. Many inner city authorities are fitting them to the front doors of tenants at risk.

The letterbox opening is the weakest point of a house, and it is easy to pour petrol through it and throw in a match. The fumes from such a fire can rapidly fill a home with lethal effect, particularly if the occupants are asleep.

Families threatened with attack have sometimes barricaded themselves inside so effectively that firemen cannot get in to rescue them.

The devices to frustrate the arsonist, developed for the Post Office by Autoguard Security Systems of Colchester, Essex, cost about £90.

A canister of halon gas, which blankets flames, is mounted in the top of the metal mailbox fitted to the inside of the front door. If a fire is started, the heat shatters a glass phial and the gas is released.

Chris Partridge on a letterbox which the Post Office says will provide protection against arson attacks

Because halon is heavier than air, it collects in the mailbox and sits there until the box is opened.

Often, an arsonist will try again when he sees that the first attempt has failed, but the lingering gas will frustrate a renewed attack.

More sophisticated versions, costing £250, that can sniff petrol vapour and release the gas before the fire even starts are available to protect the mailboxes of banks and building societies, which are not often attacked but can contain valuable documents.

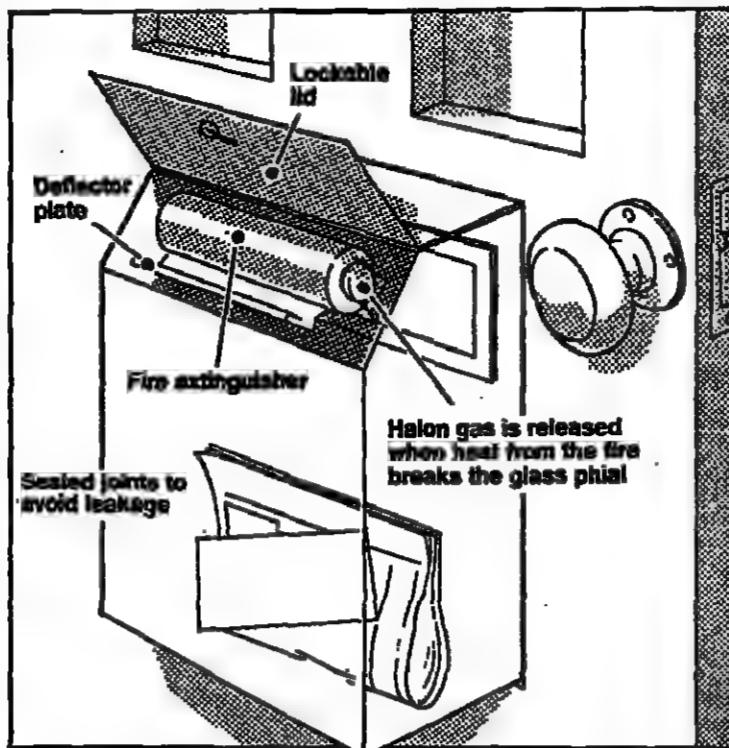
The other application for the device is inside pillar boxes, a favourite target (three or four are set alight every weekend in Birming-

ham alone). The halon extinguisher is so effective that a postman opening the box to make a collection would not realize that an attack had been made but for a flashing red light indicating that the gas canister needs replacing.

Autoguard says the only drawback is that halon is an environmentally unfriendly CFC gas. But it points out that if a home went up in flames the gases created would have a far greater effect on the ozone layer than the halon. However, the problem will be cured later this year when the halon is replaced by an ICI ozone-friendly gas.

The new mailbox had to pass tests devised by one of the most experienced teams of scientists in the design of high security systems. Protection of the Royal Mail became a job of a specialist investigation team created by the Post Office almost 200 years ago to reduce the incidence of robbery.

Prevention of present-day crime calls on a battery of forensic services, computer-based analysis, tamper-proof security devices — and 250 detectives.



Human gene therapy has been given provisional approval and an experiment should take place this year. It will demonstrate a possible cure for a disease caused by a defective gene by replacing it with a donated healthy version.

The American National Institutes of Health has approved a gene therapy proposal for treating children born with the rare disease, known as the "bubble baby syndrome". These children have no natural defence against infection and must live in a sterile environment.

There are other disorders of the immune system, in which a defective gene stops some of the white blood cells which normally protect us against disease from working properly, that are expected to become the next candidates.

If successful, the group of blood disorders such as haemophilia and thalassaemia — anaemia caused by genetic defects — are likely to be tackled by gene therapy.

The scope for gene therapy has widened so much that scientists now are researching ways to use it to prevent or treat diseases, including coronary heart disease and cancer.

Genes have been shifted routinely from one living or-

ganism to another for years. Human genes shifted into laboratory cell cultures are being used to make the substances that protect our bodies against disease outside the body for use as medical drugs.

Genes are being moved from one species of plant to another, or even from bacteria or fungi into plants, to give crops valuable properties such as resistance to disease or to herbicides which could not be provided by conventional plant breeding.

"Transgenic" sheep have been bred with human genes added to make the sheep produce valuable substances, such as the clotting factors needed to treat haemophilia.

But human gene therapy — the development that excites and sometimes frightens people most of all — is still to come. At a recent London meeting of scientists, Professor Richard Mulligan of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an acknowledged leader in gene therapy development, says it will first be used to treat

the 2,000 diseases caused by signal genetic defects, which affect about 5 per cent of people. Gene therapy may eventually become the preferred means of treating and preventing forms of cancer and heart disease. It could happen within our children's lifetimes.

But is it safe? Prof Mulligan has carried out tests and believes there is no risk that retroviruses used to carry new genes into cells might cause infectious diseases or cancer.

Another concern is that such viruses might trigger the effects of oncogenes, the genes which can cause cancer if they are stimulated to act in the wrong place or at the wrong time.

No sign of any such effects has been seen in 2,000 test tube experiments, but more precautions are still needed.

But Prof Mulligan and others point out that the risks of gene therapy, when it is first used to treat fatal and incurable diseases, will certainly be less than those of other treatments when they were used for incurable cancers for the first time.

• John Newell is BBC World Services science editor and author of *The Gene Shifters*, published by W.H. Allen in September 1989 (£6.95).

way with the wanted gene, the bone marrow will be grown in culture and then reimplanted in the patient. The hope is that it will supply enough healthy, normal white blood cells to cure the condition.

Prof Mulligan says he expects to see such techniques being used for the first time within three years and making a major medical impact in 10 or 15 years.

All the techniques required have already been tested in mice. After bone marrow, the next target for gene therapy is the liver. Defective genes in liver cells cause several common diseases.

Prof Mulligan's team has shown that by inserting the correct version of the gene into only 5 per cent of the cells of the liver of a rabbit affected by hypercholesterolemia — very high levels of blood cholesterol causing hardening of the arteries and coronary heart diseases — it is possible to lower blood

cholesterol levels by 30 per cent. Research is now showing that it will not always be necessary to put the wanted genes into the part of the body affected by a disease.

Professor Howard Green, of the Harvard Medical School, is planning to treat dwarfism, caused by a deficiency of the growth hormone normally produced by the pituitary gland, by implanting genes for growth hormone into skin grafts. The plan is to remove a small sample of skin cells from the patient and to insert the growth hormone gene into them using a retrovirus.

Then the cells will be grown in tissue culture until there are enough of them to provide a sizeable sheet of skin. This will then be grafted on to the patient and hopefully will supply the missing growth hormone by diffusion down into blood vessels below the surface of the skin. Donor skin cannot be used because of rejection problems.

As well as treating many of the 2,000 diseases caused by signal genetic defects, which affect about 5 per cent of people, gene therapy may eventually become the preferred means of treating and preventing forms of cancer and heart disease. It could happen within our children's lifetimes.

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SCIENCE REPORT

A foxy look at distant origins

A technique called genetic "fingerprinting" which is used to settle paternity suits can help biologists work out evolutionary relationships between small populations of animals cast adrift on islands, according to a report in today's *Nature* (vol. 344, pp. 764-765).

Genetic fingerprinting, invented by Alec Jeffreys of the University of Leicester, depends on identifying short pieces of genetic material that carry informative sequences of genetic information. When a sample is "read out" in the laboratory, the fingerprints show up as a distinctive pattern of bands like a barcode on a can of beans. Genetic mutation results in slight changes in the fingerprint pattern, which can be passed from generation to generation.

In large populations in which any two individuals are unlikely to be related to one another, these inherited genetic changes mean that the fingerprints tend to be similar within families — hence the application in paternity disputes.

But Robert Wayne, from the University of California at Los Angeles, and colleagues from the US National Cancer Institute in Maryland, show that things are very different for small populations in which the average degree of relatedness between individuals is likely to be higher.

Mr Wayne and his colleagues have been studying small populations of the California Channel Island fox, *Urocyon littoralis*, on six islands off the California coast. Foxes from the same island all have similar prints, but these are distinct from those of the foxes on the other islands. The foxes on one island had identical fingerprints. In most animal populations, identical

individuals have different prints. The new findings may give biologists a window on the genetic changes that happen in small populations just as they start to diverge, the start of the process whereby distinct species originate.

Peter Aldhouse

An experiment in human gene therapy is likely this year, John Newell writes

Hope on immune horizon

immune system disorders caused by genetic defects. These disorders are incurable and often fatal and the technology needed for their treatment has already been developed.

Such conditions are sometimes treated by killing the patient's own bone marrow, the tissue where the white cells are made, using radiation or toxic chemicals, and transplanting healthy bone marrow from a related donor into the patient to produce healthy white blood cells.

"Transgenic" sheep have been bred with human genes added to make the sheep produce valuable substances, such as the clotting factors needed to treat haemophilia.

But human gene therapy — the development that excites and sometimes frightens people most of all — is still to come. At a recent London meeting of scientists, Professor Richard Mulligan of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an acknowledged leader in gene therapy development, says it will first be used to treat

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued on page 34

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Pearce Wright reports on a coastal wonder

Critics trim magic grass

A chance sexual encounter, just over 100 years ago, between a variety of cordgrass growing in Europe and its North American cousin gave birth to a new species, *Spartina anglica*. This sturdy, salt-tolerant and, until recently, welcome offspring, which could be harvested to yield 16 tonnes of dried leaf and stalk per hectare, has suddenly become a centre of attention and concern.

The unusual botanical union can be traced to the salt marshes fringing the Solent estuary in the south of England, and it has had a profound effect on the ecology of the habitats to which it has spread, naturally and by deliberate introductions in temperate regions of the north and southern hemispheres.

Thirteen research groups which have studied its origins and propagation present their findings in *Spartina anglica: A Research Review*, published by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology of the Natural Environment Research Council.

The new strain of cordgrass dominated the lower intertidal zones of mudflats and salt marshes,

previously unoccupied by perennial plants. With its ability to bind mud and prevent coastal erosion through its elaborate root system, the grass soon became a useful plant in land reclamation, with the bonus that it provided good grazing.

Its use in stabilizing shorelines is attributed to the then Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, in 1907. More recently, additional benefits have come from its ability to grow in oil-polluted areas, such as estuaries with oil refineries.

But the prospect of a erosion of coastlines caused by rising sea levels associated with global warming casts doubt on the further usefulness of the species, according to Alan Gray and Pauline Benham, from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology's Firswood Research Station, at Wareham in Dorset.

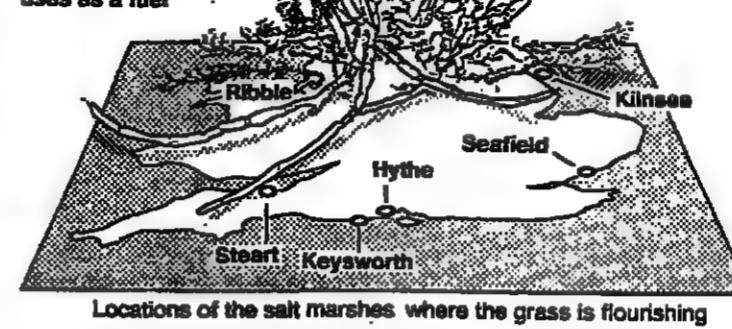
Possible harmful effects include the invasion of wader and wildfowl feeding grounds and the displacement of more diverse plant communities by swarms of this single species. The reduction in diversity is a matter of concern for nature conservationists because, compounded with pressures of land and

Solent's safeguard: *Spartina anglica* growing on saltflats

commercial development, it means that fewer intertidal feeding grounds are available to birds. Estuaries famous for their waders in Morecambe Bay and the Solway are threatened.

The grass belongs to a class known as polyploid because it contains a double set of chromosomes, which means it has two sets of genes from parents of different species. By backtracking through the type of cross-breeding that might lead to this particular polyploid, the botanists identified two plants, *Spartina maritima* from Europe and *Spartina alterniflora* from North America, with a combination of genetic make-up that matches *Spartina anglica*.

The grass has proven to be extremely resilient, recovering from oil spills and preventing ground erosion. It may also have uses as a fuel



Locations of the salt marshes where the grass is flourishing

Eating to live



Cold relief

Rheumatism sufferers in a West Berlin hospital are being offered a radical new form of treatment. They will be subjected to temperatures of minus 180 degrees Celsius, twice as cool as the coldest temperature found naturally on earth.

A liquid nitrogen generator produces liquid air, which is stored in a vacuum-insulated container.

This is then used to cool a fresh air stream for a cryotherapy chamber, which patients enter for a few minutes three times a day over a period of several months.

The intense cold relieves the rheumatic pain in the affected joints, and the consequent improved mobility assists the restoration of damaged bone tissue, according to Sulzer (UK) Ltd, the company in Aldershot, Hampshire, which is supplying the equipment to the Immanuel Hospital in West Berlin.

Diet for two

A woman's diet around the time of conception and the first three months of pregnancy is more important in determining the weight, head circumference and length — and therefore overall health — of the baby at birth than her diet in the latter six months of pregnancy, according to a study in the *Journal of Nutritional Medicine*, a new medical journal published last week.

The conclusions are based on a study of 513 pregnant women by the Nuffield Laboratories of Comparative Medicine at the Institute of Zoology in London.

It showed that lower intakes of vitamins B1 and B3, magnesium and iron around the time of conception and the first three months of pregnancy were associated with lower birthweights.

Women giving birth to babies with a head circumference of less than 23 centimetres were associated with lower intakes of vitamins, minerals and fibre.

Light relief

Cabbages and broccoli that have been genetically engineered to glow are being tested in a research project approved by the United States government.

Professor Joseph Shaw, of Auburn University, Alabama, transferred a set of genes having a code for bioluminescence from a marine organism into bacteria that cause black rot, a major disease of plants in the cabbage and broccoli family.

After infection by the luminescent bacteria, the diseased parts of the plant glow, allowing scientists to trace the progress of the disease without destroying the plants. Professor Shaw says:

The US Agriculture Department said field tests would not pose an agricultural or human hazard.

"At this point, I definitely would not recommend a calorie-restricted diet for people," says Dr Angelo Turutto, a biologist at the National Center for Toxicological Research in Jefferson, Arkansas. "There are still too many unknowns."

Today, time is far more precious. No sooner is one technology in place, than another comes along. One information and communications company is committed to providing its customers with the most up-to-date communications system on earth. That company is Bell Atlantic, an experienced communications leader.

For example, Allied Breweries needed installation and maintenance for their on-line electronic point-of-sale equipment in 2,000 of their pubs and outlets. Bell Atlantic's Sorbus created a separate retail systems division to cater to their unique requirements for

New technique may unscramble our past

History of modern man in an eggshell

SOME OF the most bitter disputes over exactly when anatomically modern humans evolved may be resolved by an intriguing new method of dating prehistoric objects adopted by a team of American scientists.

The technique relies on the fact that two million years ago humans began to eat ostrich eggs and use their shells for storing water and for adornment. It fills a vital gap between the ranges provided by radiocarbon dating and the analysis of potassium-argon ratios in samples (Pearce Wright writes).

The results, involving researchers from five universities, show that the technique can determine ages to within 10 per cent accuracy for sites within the last 200,000 years in the tropics and within the last one million years in colder regions, such as China.

The scientists believe a modified version involving analysis of owl eggs and the remnants of other avian species could be appropriate for investigations in Europe.

Eggshells of the African ostrich were the first to be used because they were common in archaeological sites in

Africa, according to a report from Professor A. S. Brooks, from the department of anthropology of the George Washington University, Washington, and colleagues.

They describe in the magazine *Science* how the method was first tested in laboratory simulations of aging. Analyses were then made of material from documented sites and compared with data obtained with a variety of established procedures.

The focus of most debate is on the dating of the sites, hominid fossils and artefacts of associated archaeological industries from Africa and the Near East, covering the period from 40,000 years to 200,000 years. This is thought to be the epoch which holds the secrets of the biological and cultural origins of modern man.

Many fossil discoveries of this period have been dated provisionally on circumstantial evidence. Local variables make this method uncertain, however. The alternative approach based on the ostrich eggshell relies on the slow changes which occur in protein molecules in the shell. These changes are influenced by time and temperature.



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Why China launched a second-hand American satellite

The development of the United States space Shuttle put the idea of the reusable launch vehicle into practice. The Chinese have now demonstrated the notion of the reusable space satellite.

When China celebrated its entry into the commercial space business this month, with the launch of a communications and television satellite called *Asiasat 1*, for Hong Kong-based international consortium, one of the more extraordinary technical aspects of the venture received little recognition. It had already been a success.

There were also significant political hurdles to be surmounted because *Asiasat*, launched mainly for communications and broadcasting television channels for China, Thailand, Pakistan and Hong Kong, was built by America's Hughes Aircraft Corporation.

Clearance for its launch on a Chinese Long March-3 rocket became threatened by American sanctions imposed after the Beijing uprising last year.

Asiasat's first journey into space

A satellite stranded in orbit and then recovered has made a new journey into space, reports Pearce Wright

was under the name *Westar 6*. It was one of two built by the Hughes corporation and carried into orbit on *Shuttle Mission 10* in February 1984.

Unfortunately, the motors of both *Westar 6* and its sister satellite *Palapa B2* failed to propel them high enough to reach the geostationary position necessary for a permanent communications satellite, and they became stranded in a useless low-earth orbit where they wallowed for nine months.

Since the motor used on *Westar 6* had a successful record, the cus-

tomer for whom *Palapa B2* was to be launched, the Indonesian government, was asked if it wanted the mission to continue.

Returning it to earth would have cost \$10 million (£6.2 million) and involved NASA in a landing for which it was not prepared.

The attempt to launch was agreed but again failed.

While the customers collected their insurance, totalling \$180 million (£111 million), the cost of satellite premiums increased by about 12 per cent.

Disappointment at the loss of the two satellites was mitigated, nevertheless, by the spectacular demonstration on the same mission of the Manned Manoeuvring Unit for uncrewed flight.

In a remarkable rescue, *Shuttle Mission 10* recovered *Westar 6* and its *Palapa B2*, they were refurbished and resold at bargain prices.

Both satellites belong to one of the most widely used family of communications satellites. They are 9ft tall when loaded on their launch vehicle, but when their telescopic



American technicians work on the Chinese-launched *Asiasat 1*

solar panels and folding antennae are released, they measure 22ft.

Recovery of the satellites was probably the most demanding task conducted by an uncrewed astronaut. It was achieved with a device

called a "stinger" which was locked on to the spacecraft so the satellites could be drawn into the cargo bay. A similar effort will be repeated next week if the *Hubble* space telescope is able to be released.

Video players with a personal touch

Personal video players will soon be widely available in Europe, but would-be buyers may find them too costly. George Cole reports

video cameras, television screen and video recorder – than can be used separately or slotted together to form a complete video unit.

All the systems play pre-recorded tapes and allow users to record television programmes – some even include a miniature video camera that can be worn on a belt or headband. Most also include built-in speakers and headphones.

The first systems were launched in Japan in 1987, with first-year sales totalling 10,000 units. Industry estimates put this year's sales at nearer 360,000 units.

Last year, Sony released the *Video Walkman* in Europe for £800. It is about the size of a thick paperback book, runs on batteries or mains and displays its pictures on a four-inch flat television screen. Other companies are promising to launch similar products this summer.

But, despite the variety of personal videos available, the market has grown slowly because they are far too expensive for general use and there is a bewildering range of video standards.

Personal video is a three-horse race, with electronics companies backing in-

compatible or partly compatible systems. Apart from the confusion it creates, the standards war is likely to make consumers uneasy about committing themselves to a format that might become obsolete – like Sony's Betamax and Philips' V2000 video systems.

One of the biggest targets for personal video is the transport world. Companies paint a picture of commuters using pocket-sized machines to watch last night's programmes on the morning train, or parents keeping their children entertained on long car journeys.

Personal video systems are

already being used on Japan Airlines and Virgin to provide in-flight entertainment for first and business-class passengers.

Several other airlines, including British Airways, are evaluating these systems, while in Japan they are used on some Japanese steep trains and taxis. But Sony expects them to be used in other areas, such as libraries, video rental shops, travel agents, hotels and hospitals.

Electronics company Hitachi hopes personal videos will also be used in the business market, for sales presentations and "video memos", for

example. And, with an eye to the international business market, the company has just launched a £1,300 VHS portable that will play video tapes from anywhere in the world.

But the real challenge is to make personal video cheap enough for the mass market. Personal videos can never match the price of personal stereos because the players use complex and expensive tape mechanisms. Most personal videos cost about £1,000 because manufacturers incorporate all the features found on a standard video deck, including a television tuner and recording facility.

But the companies say they will eventually launch stripped-down versions which will sell for far less than those available at the moment.

JOBCENE

The freeing-up of Eastern skills

Europe's emerging democracies are exchanging IT staff for hard currency

British computer services companies are turning to the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe for alternative sources of information technology staff.

Discussions have been held with state-owned IT organizations in the Eastern Bloc and one British recruitment agency is holding talks with the Polish Government to create "a migration route" for IT staff to contract in the UK.

UK companies complain of difficulties in recruiting skilled staff, while Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia are seen as having plenty of highly qualified technical graduates.

These countries are keen to contract their IT staff in return for foreign currency as they seek to restructure their economies.

Some see them as having the potential to provide a rival to Asia, which has succeeded in undercutting costs in the West through cheaper wages.

Already large software projects are being offloaded to India and Malaysia.

The advantage of Eastern Europe is its proximity but some British union officials are concerned that it could pose a threat to staff here if companies impose employment conditions not acceptable in the West.

ICL formed a joint company in Leningrad last year which employs 70 staff.

Digital Equipment has formed a joint company with two of Hungary's leading engineering organizations.

Oracle, the software supplier, has signed an agreement with a Hungarian software house and Czechoslovakian academic institute.

However, some Eastern Europeans are not content to wait for companies to get these agreements off the ground.

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computer staff of about 20,000 in Hungary – about the size of the UK's IT contractor workforce – and they are accelerating training.

He says they have no intention of undercutting salaries in the West but are rather seeking to help overcome recruitment problems in exchange for Western currency.

"The biggest part of our business is exporting people to take part in software development projects in mostly West Germany but also France though the interest from British companies has been good," Mr Kovacs said.

Computer services companies are open to these proposals as they say they need more skilled staff than they can find locally.

One factor holding back the trend is that Eastern Bloc countries are barred from using advanced systems under the Western governments' CoCom regulations, the body which controls high-technology exports.

This means that there are few with experience of the latest software and hardware, although Mr Kovacs says that Eastern European countries have gained access to "grey software", or copies.

But leading computer suppliers are rapidly forming relationships with organizations in the Eastern Bloc and will be training employees in the latest IT skills.

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Ervin Kovacs, director of the state-owned Szalak, the largest software house in Hungary, which employs 1,300 IT employees, says there is a

Leslie Tilley

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued from page 32

Health Physics Assistant

Dungeness 'A' Power Station, Kent

Nuclear Electric is responsible for all commercial nuclear power generation throughout England and Wales. Our mission is to produce electricity as economically as possible while retaining an overriding concern for safety and care for the environment. This means that our top priority is quality – in our plant, in our methods, and above all, in our people – in one of the most technologically advanced and demanding industries in Britain.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the position of Health Physics Assistant at Dungeness 'A' Power Station.

The successful candidate will join a small team of professional Health Physicists who, together with supporting staff, are responsible for providing a total radiation protection service to the plant.

The work of the group is varied and involves tasks such as: hazard assessment, control planning, radioactive waste management, laboratory measurements and personal dosimetry. There is also a large commitment to training other staff.

Applicants should possess a good degree in Physical Science or Engineering and preferably have at least two years experience of radiation protection in an industrial environment. Good written and oral communication skills are essential.

Depending on qualifications and experience, the successful candidate will be appointed to the relevant grade with a commensurate salary in the range of £12,048 - £20,127 p.a.

Please telephone 0679 20461 ext 3333, during office hours, for an application form and return it to: Mr P. West, Station Manager, Dungeness 'A' Power Station, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 9PP to arrive no later than 23 April 1990 quoting vacancy D1/104/1990.

An equal opportunity employer Nuclear Electric plc welcomes applications from men and women including ethnic minorities and the disabled.



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TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION

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Success will stem from your diplomacy in dealing with distributors and end users, as well as your ability to meet the demands created by a rapidly expanding business. Managing a small team, you will establish company policy on customer service. Your knowledge of the market and interface with product design and development will be vital to maintain competitive advantage.

Aged 30-45, ideally you are an Electronics Engineer with a sound service background. You have high levels of energy, commitment and drive, together with excellent communication skills. You may have experience within a consumer electronics environment. You can negotiate at all levels and can represent the company in the UK and overseas.

Rewards are negotiable to £30,000 to attract the best candidates, and include 2 litre car, private health insurance and relocation assistance (Surrey M3/M25). Career prospects are excellent. Take the first step by writing with full CV to Patrick Hill of Aston Zoraster Limited, Westminster House, 58 London Street, Reading RG1 4SQ. Telephone: 0734 566123.

CINCH

Cinch Connectors is part of the International Engineering Group 'Labinet' and is a 'centre of excellence' with full capabilities for the design, manufacture and sale of a wide range of connectors and connector systems, with world wide markets in the computer, telecomm, aerospace, defence and automotive industries.

Our business is growing and we aim to continue doing so through innovative design and excellence of customer service. To help achieve this we have an immediate requirement for:

Product Engineering Manager

The ideal candidate will be educated to degree level, and have good management communication and connector design skills.

The successful candidate will be a member of the decision making team of the company, chaired by the Managing Director.

This is a very high profile position within our organisation, so if you have the vision to guide our Product Design Team into the 90s and beyond, then write, giving details of your career to date and present salary to:

Terry Kelly
Employee Relations Manager
Cinch Connectors Limited (Dept TT)
Shiroaks Road,
WORKSOP, Notts. S80 3HA.

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SYSTEMATICA is the world's leading supplier of fully configurable CASE products to industry, government and international projects. Continuing success has created a number of exciting new opportunities at our attractively positioned offices in the coastal resort of Bournemouth.

Software Engineers - to work with our world class team developing products for the rapidly expanding CASE market. Ada and structured design methods experience is desirable but not essential as training will be given to successful candidates.

Methods Engineers - an opportunity to move into the software engineering discipline of the future in using our products to configure CASE tools for our international clientele. The positions would suit engineers with experience in formal/structured design methods and a steady head for maths.

Sales Engineers - these positions would provide experienced software engineers or project managers with a chance to develop their careers in a commercial environment. A sound technical background is essential preferably in software areas such as realtime, database, 4 GL, compiler or CASE systems.

All positions offer an attractive salary, 5 weeks holiday and excellent benefits.

If you feel you have some, or all, of the required attributes and skills for any of these challenging positions, please write with full CV to Mrs Vivienne Hill, Systematica Limited, Systematica House, 3-7 St Stephens Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH2 6JL Tel: (0202) 297292.

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Ensign Geophysics Limited is an established and dynamic British company, supplying geophysical data processing services to the oil exploration industry. Committed to a programme of expansion whilst maintaining our unrivalled reputation for quality and service, we are seeking people with up to 5 years industry experience, who wish to further their careers as

PROCESSING GEOPHYSICISTS

Successful applicants are likely to possess a degree in either mathematics or physics. An earth science qualification is also acceptable provided that a high degree of numeracy can be demonstrated. Applicants should be self-motivated and able to communicate effectively with both colleagues and clients. In return the Company offers a highly competitive salary and excellent benefits.

If you are interested in playing a key role in the future of a successful and friendly company, please write with a brief c.v. to:

Pete Northmore, Processing Director, Ensign Geophysics Ltd, Ensign House, Brighton Road, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15 1PU (Tel: 0892 857433).

ENSIGN Geophysics Ltd

Aston Zoraster
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH & SELECTION

مكتباً من الأصل

APPOINTMENTS

THURSDAY APRIL 19 1990

Working the world

The days when experience gathered beyond our shores was considered a career interruption are over. Young professionals heading for work overseas know their determination will be seen not as opting out but as opting in.

A report from Voluntary Service Overseas, "The VSO Effect", says service in another country "produces people who are adaptable, responsible and tenacious; people who can manage people and communicate with them".

In a Third World country, the scale of responsibility thrust on a novice can be enormous, which is why one returner, typically, claimed VSO gave him "outstanding management experience... supervising projects and taking decisions".

The spin-offs are endorsed in the report by Valerie Singleton, a television and radio broadcaster, who believes that if Britain is going to participate fully in post-1992 Europe, "the ability to deal with people from different cultural backgrounds is vital".

Earlier retirement, increasing job changes and extended secondments provide chances to go abroad to use marketable skills to enhance quality of life, as well as

Young professionals heading for jobs overseas are not opting out. Ann Hills reports on the various positive spin-offs

for monetary gain. A senior development officer from BP in north-west Europe is now with VSO as a founder manager in Ghana. A retired NHS information manager is using his talent in Grenada.

Workers can get down to the roots of local resources.

For example, the aloe is a wild nettle found under forest cover at high altitudes in Nepal. A report on its potential says that its fibre, in addition to being woven into warm clothing, could be processed as cloth for regional use and, perhaps, for export.

With such potential, the nettle may eventually boost the economic position of families in remote hill areas. But technical expertise and substantial resources will be needed.

The report was published by the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG), a charity with about 150 staff worldwide and modern headquarters in Rugby, Warwickshire.

ITDG's origins stem from the

late small-is-beautiful thinker Dr E. E. Schumacher, who preached that Third World technology should be appropriate, whether for rural communities in India, Latin America, or city slums.

As its 25th anniversary looms in 1991, ITDG is, as Dr Schumacher intended, a professional meeting point employing western skills to improve tools of the trade in poor countries, without imposing western standards. Innovation springs from collaboration in the field.

"ITDG," explains Megan Jones, the group's press spokeswoman, "is often merely the catalyst for changes."

The necessary skills and sensitivity have become the backbone of new careers for already experienced overseas volunteers, engineers, textile crafts people, nutritionists and economists. Recent recruits include civil and mining engineers, socio-economists, specialists in fisheries and food processing, a veterinarian and a carpenter.

● There is an increasing number of courses for the career-minded. The British Council publishes an updated list of rural development courses in Britain. ITDG also publishes educational guidance with lists of sister organizations that employ staff. The magazine, *Appropriate Technology*, gives the flavour of work internationally. It is available from the IT bookshop at 103 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH (01-436 9761).

For details of courses and events and the updated leaflet on "Employment in Appropriate Technology", send an A4 envelope with a 24p stamp to the Intermediate Technology Development Group, Myson House, Railway Terrace, Rugby CV21 3HT (0788 60631).

The commercial consultancy field is expanding overseas. Details through the British Consultants Bureau, 1 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1 1RJ (01-222 3651). Useful publications are available from Vacation Work (9 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1HJ), and the Central Bureau for Educational Visits & Exchanges, (Seymour Mews, London W1H 9PF (01-486 5101).



Kathryn Clarke went to the Philippines with VSO

WHAT'S COOKING

● **KATHRYN CLARKE**, 38, was in an office in the Intermediate Technology Development Group's Rugby headquarters. Having gone from a London University degree in nutrition to being marketing manager with Milupa, a leading baby food company, she went to the Philippines three years ago with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO). There she used her marketing skills to advise on raising credit for small businesses. She came up against the problems of adapting small-scale technology to larger enterprises, such as making sweets.

"VSO was a preparation for a job in development," Ms Clarke says. She has since taken on a number of responsibilities at ITDG. In Sri Lanka, she organized an international seminar on urban stoves. This is based on a project to create production facilities and a market for 100,000 fuel-efficient stoves a year.

She believes that what is wanted is not a "techno-fix" solution, but technology responsive to local needs. In Bangladesh, for example, a project which processes sugar cane brings employment to landless rural women.

● **PAUL CALVERT**, a 31-year-old mechanical engineer, is leaving Rugby to spend a year as technical manager for fisheries and boat development programme in Kerala, India.

He will work with the South Indian Federation of Fishermen's Societies, which represents 4,000 men, helping develop plywood boats to replace vessels made from now-rare mango logs.



Continued from page 20

DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING

Telecommunications

New Zealand

Telecom Corporation of New Zealand Limited has carried out a major restructuring exercise to streamline its operations into strong commercial centres. As a result, The Corporation is poised to meet the demands of the fast growing deregulated Telecommunications sector in New Zealand. It is now preparing to face intense competition across all of its ventures.

This critical new appointment reports to the Chief Executive of the Corporation and has full responsibility for determining and controlling the implementation of Group sales and marketing strategy. Reporting will be a corporate team of 35 and there are teams at operational level to carry out the tactical initiatives.

Candidates must come from the expanding Telecommunications industry with in-depth experience of a PSTN or major provider of related

Excellent Package

services. Your background will include practical up front sales and marketing experience combined with recent strategic forecasting, planning and business development work at group executive director level. A graduate, you will have achieved success through applying your dynamic results oriented style and your leadership skills shall be first class.

A remuneration package along with international relocation will be negotiated to secure the right person for this superb opportunity.

Please reply in confidence, giving concise career, personal and salary details to Michael Fahey; quoting Ref. L491.

Egor Executive Selection,
58 St. James's Street
London SW1A 1LD (01-629 8070)

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The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited is the parent company of the Hongkong Bank Group, a major and fast growing financial service organisation with its Head Office in Hong Kong. It has 1,300 offices in 50 countries and a staff of over 52,000.

HongkongBank's Group Training and Management Development Department is responsible for providing professional training and consultancy services to all levels of management and staff Groupwide.

We are seeking a Marketing and Sales Trainer to analyse training needs in the areas of marketing and sales, negotiation and customer service, to support HongkongBank's business strategies and to design and deliver training programmes or other training solutions, to meet these needs. Significant international travel will be involved.

Candidates will be graduates and probably in their early to mid 30s. They must have a minimum of ten years experience in a professional Marketing and/or Sales environment which should have included a period in training or consultancy. Candidates must be self sufficient, innovative and commercially minded. Either or both a professional qualification in Marketing/Sales or experience in a financial services organisation would be an advantage.

It is probable that the successful candidate will succeed the current Marketing and Sales Training Manager whose next career move is being planned. Consequently, experience of organising and managing a small creative team is necessary.

Employment will initially be on the basis of a two year contract. The expatriate benefits package includes a tax paid salary in the range of HKD360,000 to HKD420,000 per annum, free furnished accommodation, 25% gratuity, a housing loan in your home country at a preferential rate, six weeks annual leave, and allowances for leave travel, and for children's education and holiday passages.

Please reply by May 4th 1990 to: Patricia A. Coulson,

Manager International Recruitment,
The Hongkong and Shanghai
Banking Corporation Limited,
PO Box 199,
99 Bishopsgate,
London EC2P 2LA.

HongkongBank

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd.



Otis Elevator is the wholly owned subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation, whose best known products include Pratt & Whitney aircraft engines and Sikorsky helicopters. Otis is the global leader in the design, manufacture, installation and servicing of lifts and escalators, employing over 40,000 people in 143 countries.

In the UK we are the market leader, recognised by our customers for our commitment to quality, product innovation and the capabilities of our employees. We manufacture in two locations and carry out installation and service from a nationwide branch network. We believe that to stay ahead in an arena of technical innovation and expertise we have to move forward. That's why we're committed to recruiting the best graduates available to become our next generation of technical and management staff.

ASCEND TO A TOP LEVEL CAREER

EXPERIENCED GRADUATES

Joining Otis won't be doing "just another job". Having a couple of years post-graduate work experience, or maybe a period of industrial training you'll be embarking on a highly rewarding career in a very exciting field. Our Graduate development programme enables you to experience the business at its grass roots level, followed by real experience and training in your chosen career route, which

could include project management, sales and marketing, field management, manufacturing, finance or personnel.

MANUFACTURING AND PURCHASING 'HIGH FLYERS' can have the opportunity to be considered for our high profile, high impact, Otis University programme. With a good degree and at least two years good experience at a senior level within manufacturing or purchasing, you could have the chance to experience a year of truly international project and classroom based work, designed to improve the success of the Otis business, whilst at the same time developing your existing skills to enable you to become an international senior manager within Otis. Knowledge of a European language is essential.

If you have the ambition and ability to develop the essential management, technical and business skills we value so highly, you can go all the way to the top!

If you're ready for challenge, variety, worldwide opportunities and exceptional rewards - both in terms of financial benefits and career development prospects - write to the Graduate Recruitment Manager, Otis Elevator Plc, 43-59 Clapham Road, London, SW9 0JZ, with CV or Standard Application Form.

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EACH AT £30K+

5 year term appointments with possibility of extension.

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For further details and an application form (to be returned by 4 May 1990) write to the Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 482561 (answering service operates outside office hours).

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You will need extensive financial experience within our operating territories and be able to create successful business units required in the running of an independent profit-led company. An accountancy qualification is essential. Knowledge of the legal regulations applicable to the CIS business would also be valuable.

To apply, please send your full CV in confidence to: Personnel Manager, WORLDSPAN Services Building 685, Northgate Road West, Headstone, Middlesex TW6 3PF.



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Salary £40,000 plus car

A qualified Accountant, with financial and business planning experience in an operational environment, and ideally with experience and/or a keen interest in Commercial Development and Marketing is required for the above post. We seek an outgoing, socially confident individual who is able to contribute to the strategic management of the business.

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If you wish to be considered for this post please write to the Personnel Officer, East Midlands International Airport plc, Castle Donington, Derby, DE7 2SA or telephone Derby (0332) 852807 for an application form and further details. Closing date for completed application forms is Monday, 30th April 1990.

This is a re-advertisement. Previous applicants will be considered and need not re-apply.

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c.£30K + Car + Mortgage Subsidy

Black Horse Financial Services is a rapidly expanding company, marketing a comprehensive range of financial services to clients of Lloyds Bank and Black Horse Estate Agencies. Our continued growth has created the need for an experienced professional to manage a department responsible for processing off life and pensions new business.

This is a role that demands strong organisational and people management skills. It will provide the opportunity for a proactive administrator, who can appreciate the full potential of computerisation, to implement their own initiatives and make a significant impact on our new business system.

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The attractive salary is supported by a generous range of benefits including a car, mortgage subsidy, contributory pension scheme and an annual bonus.

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Juniper Woolf Consulting Partners,
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London East Training and Enterprise Council

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The London East Training and Enterprise Council has as its mission the enhancement of economic growth of the area by the development of the skill and talents within its community. This new venture will manage existing programmes and develop new enterprise and training initiatives. Primarily funded by Government and with the largest development funding so far granted, it has the independence to develop its own sources of income.

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It is unlikely that anyone with less than 10 years in a senior management position would have the necessary experience or maturity to fill this vacancy.

Please send a full C.V. to Graham Judge, London East Training and Enterprise Council, c/o 11 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4DX. Closing date for receipt of applications is 30th April 1990.

The London East Training and Enterprise Council is an equal opportunity employer.



German Translator

French as second language

Equities Division

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Competitive salary + benefits

UBS Phillips & Drew is one of the City's leading financial institutions offering a broad range of investment banking services. We are seeking a Translator to work within our Equities Division.

Working in our dealing room you will be translating research material and newspaper articles on behalf of our analysts. The majority of your work will be German into English, with an occasional need for English into German. There will also be some French translation but this is a secondary requirement.

Whilst not necessarily a graduate of the German language, you must be able to demonstrate that you can readily understand and translate financial material, and have the skills necessary to cope with the language as it relates to the business environment. Good organisational skills are essential as is the ability to work unsupervised to strict deadlines when necessary. We offer an excellent package, including competitive salary plus bonus, mortgage subsidy and non-contributory pension scheme.

Please write, enclosing full c.v. to:
Sally Mew, Personnel Manager,
UBS Phillips & Drew,
100 Liverpool Street, London,
EC2M 2RH.



UBS Phillips & Drew

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Incorporating Paul Hobson Associates

GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR

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Based in either London or Northampton, with extensive travel opportunities, you will have a proven track record, be self-motivated, outgoing and have the drive to see your career grow in a fast changing and stimulating environment.

A generous financial package including profit related bonus, share options, company car, pension and private health insurance, will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

Contact: Jasmine Baldwin on Northampton (0604) 233363 or write to First Architecture Group Plc, Hazelrigg House, 33 Marefair, Northampton NN1 1SR.

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Adding value globally City; c£50k + car + financial sector benefits

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Nowhere is this more evident than in our International Division, where, with the help of 5,500 employees, it successfully conducts business in 32 countries across five continents.

A key objective of the company and its divisions is to consolidate its major player position in the financial services sector throughout the European Community, Australia and the Far East by organic growth, acquisition and merger.

The Division now wishes to appoint a professional Manager to the headquarters of the International life businesses - someone with extensive actuarial experience to guide, control and monitor overseas operations and to influence their future development, which may involve project research in new or existing territories.

Reporting to the Divisional Director you will contribute fully, in a senior management capacity, towards the development of business strategies and the achievement of the division's short and long-term business objectives. Success in this role will add value to overseas operations through the provision of technical development and support systems. In addition, you will make a significant impact towards the innovative planning and marketing of tax efficient Life and Pensions products.

To tackle this role you will need to demonstrate high levels of management, communication and social skills, supported by sound technical knowledge and strong decision making ability. A lucid verbal and written reporting style should also be in evidence as should command of a second language.

Probably aged 35-45, you are essentially proactive with an enviable record of consistent success gained in the life and pensions/financial services industry. With career routes open to the top this appointment can provide you with a substantial opportunity in the challenge of change.

Salary is negotiable, around £50,000 plus a car and the excellent benefits package includes preferential rate mortgage, BUPA, PII and non-contributory pension scheme.

Please send a detailed cv to John L. Thompson (Ref. 1433) our Advising Consultant at Thompson Associates Ltd., Compton House, Selston Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 6PA. Fax: 01-680 9773. Strict confidentiality will be maintained.



EAGLE STAR

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

MALAWI

Regional Manpower Adviser

A challenging opportunity to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team of professional advisers based in ODA's Regional Office for Southern Africa in Lilongwe, Malawi. This Office is responsible for the design and management of the British Aid Programme to Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique and SADC.

The Regional Manpower Adviser is responsible for developing and managing a wide variety of projects and training programmes concerned with human resource and institutional development in the public and parastatal sectors. The jobholder will be required to travel widely throughout the region, and to work closely with officials of recipient Governments as well as with other ODA Advisers, other donor agencies and the British Council. The work calls for excellent communications skills, adaptability and imagination. This is an interesting and challenging post with advisory responsibilities for an important component of the total aid programme to the region.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should be British Citizens with a professional qualification in either human resources development, organisational development, manpower economics or training and development. Experience in management consultancy or research related to organisational development and training, will be an advantage, as will experience of working in a third world country.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

You will be on contract to the British Government for 3 years, on loan to the Government of Malawi. Salary is in the range £26,675 p.a. to £38,550 p.a. (UK tax-free). Additional benefits will normally include tax-free overseas allowances, children's education allowances, free accommodation and annual fare-paid leave.

Closing date for return of completed application forms is 16 May, 1990.

For further details and application form, please write to: Appointments Officer, Ref No AH364/SAUST, Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA, or telephone (0355) 41199 ext 3534.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT
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To £30,000 + Car + Generous Package

We are a leading engineering consultancy working at the forefront of several different technologies. Our professional and technical supremacy has resulted in a long standing, world wide reputation as a centre of excellence.

Due to reorganisation we need an exceptional individual who will manage an £8.5m facility, a £5.5m capital investment programme and supported by a team of experienced engineers, a 300% increase in turnover.

An ambitious leader with drive and diplomacy, you will have chartered status and a solid mechanical engineering background ideally including thermofluids or aerodynamics. Your extensive project management experience will include a strong commercial flair, financial control and human resource administration.

We will offer the successful applicant a salary to £30,000, company car, profit share scheme, pension plan, private health insurance, full relocation as appropriate, five weeks holiday and distinct promotional prospects.

For further information and a confidential interview contact our retained consultant Peter Holiday on 021-427 4255 8.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. or send your c.v. to him at:

The Selection Partnership
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Cambridge 0223 208181 TSP Manchester 061 969 1421
Merton 081 274174

SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR

Peterborough Salary neg. up to £30,000 + bonus

A subsidiary of an electrical and mechanical engineering group, committed to both organic and acquisitional growth, has an excellent opportunity for a highly effective Sales & Marketing Director. The Company, which has an emphasis on Total Quality, manufacture and market worldwide a large range of Digital Readouts, Transducers and ancillary equipment for precision measurement - primarily for the machine tool and metrology industries.

The management team is consolidating the Company's position in the world market and has recently opened offices in the Far East and the U.S.A. Further operational activities are planned for South America. We now require an experienced Director to spearhead our sales drive and to broaden the customer base for our product range.

Ideally, you will have a degree/HNC in mechanical engineering and be able to demonstrate a successful track record with a background in the machine tool or metrology industry. Aged 30-45, you will possess the necessary interpersonal skills, tenacity, imagination and drive to make a major contribution to the business.

In addition to an attractive salary, the package offered includes a performance related bonus, company car and other benefits.

Applicants should forward a full C.V. to:
D. M. Hughes, Group Personnel Executive,
B. Elliott plc, Elliott House, Victoria Road, London, NW10 6NY



Programmers

UNIX

'C'

London

RDBMS

£26,000

We are able to offer a superb opportunity to join a major international Media Group as it embarks on implementing a new IT strategy. This will produce an advanced network based on mini or super-micros with applications being developed in both 'C' and INGRES under UNIX, supporting all aspects of the business.

As a consequence exceptionally challenging vacancies exist for Programmers with proven skills in 'C' and UNIX, with the emphasis being on your real practical capabilities. We are particularly interested in applicants who also have exposure to INGRES (or other RDBMS such as ORACLE, INFORMIX etc) as the strategy calls for the full integration of all applications.

Whilst your technical skills are of paramount importance it must also be stressed that these positions will require good inter-personal capabilities as well as the ability, or potential, to function as an analyst when required. However, full training will be provided if you do not possess these skills already.

The nature of the business is fast-moving, reactive and demanding. This means it is essential that you demonstrate both flexibility (to get involved in all aspects of the applications development process) and vision (to see the challenge and variety of working in many different areas of the business).

It is envisaged that remuneration will not be a problem for quality applicants with the skills we require. The salary indicated is negotiable depending on experience and the benefits are excellent including six weeks annual leave.

We have no doubt about the quality and challenge of these opportunities, and you won't either once you find out the details. In the first instance you should contact either: Steve Austin or Richard Fenner

JAMES BAKER ASSOCIATES

International Personnel Consultants

32 Savile Row, London W1X 1AG. Tel: 01-439 9311 (24 hours). Fax: 01-437 3037

Advertisement Sales Executives

As publishers of The Sun, News of the World and Sunday Magazine, News Group Newspapers are widely recognised as the market leaders amongst popular national newspapers.

Our £500 million investment in printing plant is nearing completion. This will be the largest and most advanced newspaper production system in the world, and you can appreciate why we are therefore seeking sales staff of the highest calibre.

Successful candidates are likely to be University Graduates under 30 years old, who live within easy travelling distance of London and possess between one and three years post-graduate selling experience.

Whatever your background you should be highly motivated with good analytical, business and communication skills enabling you to identify and exploit new business areas.

Success in this position will introduce you to the many career possibilities offered by our Group.

Naturally the rewards are high; in return for a record of personal success and goal achievement you will enjoy an excellent salary and benefits package which includes a generous bonus scheme, BUPA and 4 weeks holiday (rising to 6 weeks after 2 years).

Please write with brief details or CV in the strictest confidence to:

Christopher Berry, Advertisement Director, News Group Newspapers, 1 Pennington Street, Wapping, London E1 9XT.

Head of Training Support

Up to £27k

The NHS Training Authority is a £12m business which contributes to improved health care by helping to establish ways of training staff which make them more effective. We want to recruit a Head of Training Support to be responsible for the operational management of the Authority's residential training facilities, and associated activities, programmes and projects. The postholder will report to the Director of Training Resources and will have plenty of opportunities to contribute to the formulation of strategy for this new Division of the Authority, which is particularly concerned with implementation and dissemination.

You will be a graduate or equivalent with experience of training or education management and curriculum development. A good grasp of current training issues will be essential. You will need the ability to oversee gross expenditure in excess of £3.5m and income in excess of £2.5m and to share in the management of a staff of about 120. You should be committed to the aims of the National Health Service.

The post will be based at Eastwood Park, Raffield, near Bristol, but a certain amount of travelling will also be involved. An attractive car-leasing scheme is in operation. A pay rise is pending and we will shortly be introducing performance-related pay.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from Christine Soughton, Personnel Officer, NHS Training Authority, St Bartholomew's Court, 18 Christmas Street, Bristol, BS1 5BT. Tel: (0272) 291029, ext. 241 or 298578 (24 hour service).

Closing date for receipt of applications will be 27th April, 1990.

NHSTA is aiming to become an Equal Opportunities Employer.

NHS Training Authority



Senior Systems Programmer

London **Up to £32K + Benefits**

An outstanding opportunity has arisen within a major International Media organisation for a Senior Systems Programming professional. You will be joining the Group at an exciting time as it embarks on the implementation of a new I.T. strategy.

The existing systems are based around a conventional IBM compatible mainframe environment, however development plans include full utilisation of the latest Open Systems technology and relational database facilities.

It is envisaged that the IBM mainframe environment will remain the central element in the strategy and its continued technical support and development is essential. Consequently, your experience must include exposure to an MVS type operating system as well as a selection of the following products: COBOL, CICS, VSAM, TSO, JCL, ROSCOE, EASYTRIEVE, JES2, RACF, NETMASTER and CA/1.

To maximise on the real challenge of the opportunity however, you will need to grasp (and provide solutions for) the technical issues relating to an advanced Open Systems environment. Therefore relevant experience using UNIX or RDBMS (such as INGRES, ORACLE, INFORMIX) will be of particular interest.

Good communication skills are essential to work in this small team which is responsible for evolving the company's technical direction, and ensuring it meets the stated business objectives.

For further information, either send a full CV or telephone and ask for Steve Austin or Richard Fenner.

JAMES BAKER ASSOCIATES

International Personnel Consultants

32 Savile Row, London W1X 1AG. Tel: 01-439 9311 (24 hours). Fax: 01-437 3037

Sales & Marketing Director

ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS

£30k+

Backed by a public group, our client is a highly respected and established manufacturer of "niche" market electronic components.

Our requirement is for an experienced Sales and Marketing Director to drive the sale of the company's products throughout the UK and export markets.

Agred 30-45 the ideal candidate will be used to operating in a "design-in" environment and will have a track record in sales/marketing management within the electronic components market. A technical qualification is essential as is the ability and enthusiasm to develop the company.

The successful candidate will enjoy an excellent salary/remuneration package, which will include relocation assistance where necessary. Promotional prospects will be realistic for the right candidate.

Contact JULIA HEWETT on 0582 450054. Quoting ref: SMD/JH - 24 hours.



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Allied Dunbar extend an invitation to you to attend a seminar in one of our leading branches to see for yourself the facilities we can offer you, that have put the company in the forefront of the Financial Services Industry.

A Career Preview - Thursday 26th April will be held at the following branches:-

Essex 0277 632244 Surrey 0483 336333
Peterborough 0733 555212 N.W. London 01 954 7411
Northwood 0923 835555 Watford 0923 244244
Sussex 0483 336333

The career preview will provide you with insight on:-

- The Company
- The Products
- The Role
- The Training
- The Rewards

The preview will start at 7.00 pm and the presentation will be approximately one and a half hours. Light refreshments will be included.

If you have evidence of previous career success and would wish to attend any of the career previews or obtain more information please contact any of the above branches on the phone numbers given.

Allied Dunbar Assurance plc is an Equal Opportunities Group



DIRECT SERVICES MANAGER

Up to £27,500

We need an enthusiastic, imaginative and commercially minded self-starter to manage our Direct Services Unit. With an annual turnover of £2.7 million and 153 employees, this is a business which expects to get results and win contracts. We already have a successful track record with Malvern Hills District Council and other public authorities.

A bold and adventurous approach is required, and excellent communication and leadership skills, energy and drive are essential. If you are looking for a challenge and believe you can lead this winning team to even greater success, please get in touch.

You can expect a range of benefits including a choice of company hire car or essential user allowance, and an excellent relocation package.

For an informal chat, call the Chief Executive, Martin Jones, or the present Direct Services Manager, Nigel Clarke on (0527) 382700.

Application forms and further details from Carol Clark, Personnel Officer, Malvern Hills District Council, Council House, Avenue Road, Malvern, Worcs, WR14 3AB, telephone (0869) 382700 ext 2208. Closing date: 4th May 1990.

Malvern Hills District Council

THE SUNDAY TIMES

A BOLDER PERSON FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE Advertising Sales c£17,000

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Previous sales experience is not essential, but your persuasive and enthusiastic manner is! You will be working in a new technology environment - so you must be able to type - at least 30 wpm, and be aged between 20 & 30.

After an intensive two week training course you will join one of the close knit specialist teams dealing with either Appointments, Motors, Property or Features advertising. The prospects are excellent, and an enhanced basic potential plus generous basic salary, together with 6 weeks holiday and free medical insurance are just a few of the benefits we offer.

We are the market leaders in our field - so only the best need apply.

Pamela Hamilton 01-782 7133, 01-782 7878 or 01-782 7759.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Are you at the crossroads of your career?

Very often executives and other professional people contemplate a change right in the middle of their careers.

Most often their reasons for this are a general dissatisfaction with their present career and too belief that they could and should be doing better.

Chusid Landier is a group of specialist career consultants who for many years have been helping people - men and women earning £20,000+ a year, or more - to get better jobs - whether they are currently in a job, unemployed or facing redundancy.

We have turned pessimism into optimism, failure into success and failed executives into highly successful people earning very much more - and we can prove it.

For many years, we have been guiding people in the right direction - is it yours?

To receive an early confidential appointment without obligation, telephone our nearest office, (24 hour answerphone in London) or send us a c.v.

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SALES & MARKETING

SALES & MARKETING

ARE YOU LOOKING

FOR A MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

Income Range £15k to £30k

Within Two Years

Age 28 to 35

Experience 2 to 5 years

Qualifications Degree

Skills Computer literate

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481 - APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

PERA is one of Europe's largest and most successful independent technology centres. We provide help and advice to nearly 3000 British and overseas companies through our membership scheme but the majority of our income comes from individual assignments for companies in virtually every sector of industry.

With over 300 staff, income approaching £20m p.a. and an increasing client base, we have ambitious plans to expand the business into new markets and new territories.

To help us to develop our business in line with an agreed 5-year framework we wish to appoint several senior Business Development Managers. Successful applicants will take responsibility for the planning and implementation of strategic campaigns. They will be expected to prepare business plans for approval by the Board, and to work closely with the relevant professional departments to ensure their long term success. This activity is a key element of our corporate development programme and your career prospects will be outstanding.

To apply you will need to have a good degree in engineering or science and have several years experience in the marketing of consultancy services or contract R&D. You should have a track record of successful project management and be able to demonstrate excellent communication skills at all levels.

We are looking for exceptional individuals and we recognise that you will expect to receive a corresponding remuneration and benefits package. If you would like to apply, please contact Mike Thompson enclosing your CV and any other information which you feel to be relevant.

PERA

Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE13 0PB
Telephone: 0664 501501

Corporate Relations Manager

East Midlands Electricity plc is one of the leading electricity companies, formed as part of the proposed privatisation of electricity. The pursuit of excellence and innovation are a high priority, particularly in the field of customer service. It is now seeking a Corporate Relations Manager to take responsibility for its public, external and media relations and its public affairs activities at this exciting and important time in its history.

The Corporate Relations Manager will be responsible to a Director, for continuously improving the reputation of the Company both locally and nationally. He/she will not only be responsible for media and public relations and certain key publications (including the Annual Report and Accounts), but will also advise the Directors on policies designed to enhance the Company's image and ensure continued development of its reputation for excellence in customer service.

The Corporate Relations Department provides a full range of corporate and public relations services to each of the sectors of the Company. It also contributes to effective internal communications through the publication of a monthly staff newspaper and team briefing.

The post, therefore, calls for a widely-experienced Corporate Relations professional with a background in a plc environment at a senior level. Applicants should have

a wide experience of relations with the media locally and nationally, but should also be capable of organising major functions, commissioning printed material, and writing executive speeches. The ability to prepare, present and deliver a coherent, cost effective corporate relations strategy will be one of the distinguishing features of the successful candidate. Sound judgement, and strategic and tactical planning skills are also essential, as is the capacity to meet tight deadlines and strict budgets.

The salary will be in the range of £35,000-£45,000 (plus car and bonus). Our head office is located in an attractive and very convenient spot on the north edge of Nottingham and relocation assistance may be available in appropriate circumstances.

Please forward comprehensive CV with full supporting documentation to Mr S M Errington, Director of Personnel, East Midlands Electricity plc, 399 Coppice Road, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 7HX by 23rd April 1990, quoting vacancy number EM/100/90. Further details are available by telephoning 0602 269711.

East Midlands Electricity plc is an equal opportunity employer and positively encourages applicants regardless of sex, race, disability or marital status.

East Midlands Electricity

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This leading Systems House offers challenging careers in nationally important projects. Team based, practising flexibility and openness, there are opportunities at all levels to grow technically and managerially.

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A commitment to quality, leading edge

technology and structured methods presents a challenging environment. High calibre, numerate graduate-based staff currently provide an informal friendly atmosphere and the stimulus for career growth.

Salaries are wholly negotiable and, at senior levels, could include a car. A relocation package is available where appropriate.

Financial benefits are coupled with outstanding training and skill development.

If you are interested in finding out more about these first-class opportunities, telephone or write, quoting reference IT 112-ST, to Ian Mailly, Director, IT Direction Limited, 20-22 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EB. Telephone 01-242 0077 (24-hour answering service). Fax 01-405 0444.



DIRECTION

the telecommunications or computer industry, a significant element of which will have included the successful management of major sales accounts.

Principally, you will be responsible for identifying and securing major contracts, whilst maintaining and enhancing our standing in the market. This will entail a high level of strategic planning and the development of close links

SALES MANAGER to £40,000 + Car

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In the UK, the 1990's will be the decade of the intelligent network and no-one will be better equipped to supply the necessary technology than AT&T.

AT&T Network Systems UK was established in 1984 specifically to harness AT&T's unparalleled expertise in digital network equipment and services and to adapt our technology to the needs of the UK market.

As Sales Manager you will make a substantial contribution to the expansion of our business, drawing upon your 10 to 15 years' experience of

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In addition to excellent salary and benefits, full relocation assistance is available where appropriate.

If you believe you have the necessary commercial, managerial and personal skills to be successful in this role then write with CV and current remuneration details to: Keith Streeter, Personnel Manager, AT&T Network Systems UK Limited, FREEPOST, Swindon Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire SN16 9BR. Telephone: (0666) 822861.



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Salary £Negotiable & Benefits

Our client, a highly reputable and well established City based organisation seeks a professional Fund Manager to manage an expanding team investing in the European markets.

The successful candidate will be a self motivated graduate with at least 5 years proven ability in the field. In addition a relevant qualification such as Stock Exchange Society of Investment Analyst examination and a European language would be advantageous.

Our client offers a competitive salary plus an excellent range of benefits, including low interest mortgage, company car, private medical insurance and non-contributory pension scheme.

Curriculum Vitae are invited in the strictest confidence to:

Independent Recruiters
081-741 9595

Marilyn Davidson, Independent Recruiters Limited, Broadway Chambers, 14-26 Hammersmith Broadway, Hammersmith, London W6 7AF

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SENIOR PRODUCT SPECIALIST

We are looking for a graduate Chemist or Engineer with a broad knowledge of the lubricant or lube oil additive industry, who can work independently with major multinational oil company customers.

Based at our London office you will negotiate International product approvals and provide technical support to our customers. Your broad role entails negotiating approvals, and advising Product Management, Sales and technical groups worldwide of customer and OEM

requirements. You will also participate in formulating worldwide product and technical strategies.

As the role will require you to work closely with our Multi-national Account Managers and other Oronite groups around the world, you will need to be an excellent communicator and be able to provide a significant input into the existing team. In return, we offer an excellent salary package including quality company car and first class benefits.



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Chevron welcomes applications from all suitably qualified people regardless of sex, ethnic origin or disability.

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- Degree/equivalent
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- Pension scheme
- Generous relocation
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- Close to Peak District
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To apply write with c.v. quoting reference ST/PF, to: The Personnel Department, ICI Pharmaceuticals, Mereside, Alderley Park, Nr Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 4TG.



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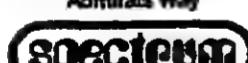
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AgipUK GEOPHYSICIST CENTRAL LONDON

A KEY ROLE IN EXPLORATION

Agip (UK) Limited is a fast developing international oil company primarily involved in North Sea Exploration and Production. As a subsidiary of Italy's national oil company and an Operator, we are establishing ourselves as a major force within the industry.

An opportunity has arisen in our Exploration Department for a Geophysicist with good interpretation experience. As a key member of our exploration team, you will be involved in seismic interpretation, project evaluation, planning geophysical surveys and preparing seismic programmes for both joint venture and operated areas.

You will have a good honours degree in geology or geophysics with a minimum of three years interpretation experience, ideally gained with an operator. Your strong technical abilities and initiative will allow you to take on broader responsibilities and take full advantage of the career opportunities offered by the position.

As a major international oil company, we offer a competitive salary and a range of valuable benefits which include a company pension scheme, private health care and a personal loan scheme.

Please send your full CV with details of your current salary to:

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(circa £35,000 + car) at the centre of training & enterprise



Training and Enterprise Councils (TEC's) are currently being established nationally to develop and implement future policies for Training and Enterprise at local levels.

The Central England TEC is one of the independent companies being formed as part of this initiative. The Board of Directors of this newly formed company, which covers the areas of Solihull, Redditch, Bromsgrove and the Wyre Forest, consists of leaders of business and public administration.

The Company will deliver value for money training and enterprise initiatives to an area which has a working population of 170,000. The Chief Executive will be responsible for implementing and delivering training and enterprise programmes.

He/she will develop Central England TEC within the framework established by the Board, the main tasks being initiatives to fulfil the enterprise objectives of the Council and to introduce programmes to improve the extent and effectiveness of training. Central to this is the need to develop relationships at senior level with Industry, Employers, academia, local authorities and the media.

The post requires a credible experienced executive with drive, enthusiasm, strong business management and marketing skills. Interpersonal skills will also be critical as the successful candidate will be required to negotiate with and influence external organisations. Some experience in the private sector would be advantageous but not essential. The successful candidate is likely to be educated to at least Honours degree level and will probably be aged at least 35.

Please send full C.V. and details of your current salary to:

Mr. Edward J. Roberts,
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

On Sunday 22nd April

The Sunday Times
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The Sunday Times reaches more young, affluent, educated and mobile (available to work overseas) professionals than any other national newspaper.

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for more details.

Source: NRS Jan - Dec 1989.

Regional Manager

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c. £27,000 + car + bonus

North London

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As Regional Manager you will be heading up a 100-strong team which provides the back-up services of sales administration, warehouse and transport, service centre and installation. The latest computerised systems and a strong management team will ensure you maintain efficient day-to-day operations whilst your own innovation, foresight and practical experience will enable you to develop the policies to handle our continuing growth.

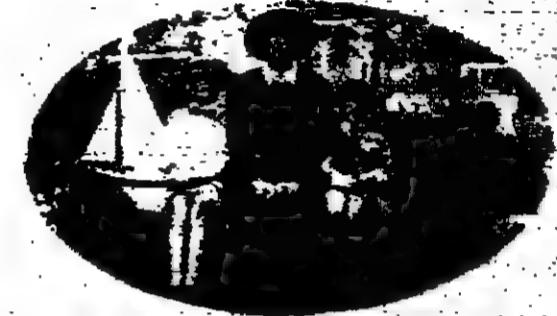
The post offers excellent scope for personal development and job satisfaction, taxing professional and practical skills to the full. Relevant experience in a customer service environment is essential and must demonstrate proven organisational skills, coupled with the ability to manage a multi-discipline team. Professional qualifications in transport and distribution will be a distinct advantage.

Rewards are generous and include a profit-related bonus, fully expensed car, assistance with relocation where appropriate as well as the usual range of large company benefits. To apply please write with full career details to Andrea Hughes at the address below.

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Mulberry



Mulberry has an outstanding record of growth and has won international recognition with a renowned reputation for quality, design and traditional English excellence of its products. Having won the Queen's Award for export on two occasions the Company is poised for significant further growth. The Company operates from its newly-opened facility at Cheltenham, Nr. Bath in Somerset, where it manufactures both fashion and accessories clothing for world-wide distribution. There is an international network of own retail shops, franchises and concessions operating in co-operation with a carefully structured wholesale distribution. Within the Company's strategic plan, the following appointments are to be made:

EUROPEAN SALES MANAGER

The Manager will report directly to the International Sales Director and will be responsible for the planning, control and development of sales within Europe through an existing network of Agents and national managers.

Fluent in at least two other major European languages, the successful candidate should also possess a significant record of sale achievement within the fashion clothing or accessories industry. Good interpersonal and organisational skills are important.

Extensive travel within Europe will be fundamental to the position offered.

WAREHOUSE AND DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

The Manager, who will report to the Production Director, must be able to demonstrate a strong record of achievement in Distribution Management, being able to develop and control all warehouse and distribution operations in order to meet all customer sales order and delivery requirements within an agreed budget.

The successful candidate will ideally have a background in fashion, however organisation and leadership skills will also be paramount.

Salary packages will not be a limiting factor and will reflect the importance of these positions.

Interested applicants should apply enclosing a CV to Andrew Kerr at Mulberry Company (Design) Limited, The Rookery, Cheltenham, Nr. Bath, BA3 4EH.

MARKETING DIRECTOR

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will really work.

The chosen executive will be someone who can anticipate rather than react to commercial issues. He, or she, will be a marketer with an intuitive feel for the customer and someone who can direct the marketing, advertising and public relations effort in order to achieve agreed sales objectives.

Business acumen and the ability to advise and gain the respect of this retail business community will be vital. These attributes combined with the personnel energy required to make an immediate and positive impact on a start-up operation, will see early rewards.

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£35,000 plus car

South London Office

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The business is entrepreneurial in its approach and geared for rapid growth. The personality of the successful candidate will match, and the person appointed will be capable of progressing to Board level.

Candidates should have several years experience in the offices of a substantial accountancy practice and/or commerce.

Reporting directly to the Managing Director, the Financial Controller will be responsible for:

- Monitoring and ensuring the availability of adequate finance for the growth projected.
- Preparing detailed annual budgets.
- Preparing of monthly management accounts.
- Advising the Board generally on the implications of the information presented.
- Preparation of final accounts for audit.
- Overseeing existing PAYE and VAT compliance procedures.

The business is registered under the Financial Services Act and the successful candidate will be expected to deal with compliance matters under the Act (although previous experience is not necessarily essential).

The business operates partly in Spain and any familiarity with Spanish language or legal systems will be an asset.

Apply in the first place, with full c.v. to Miles Bradley, The Blue, Ryecroft Lane, Selsdon, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire WD7 1ST.

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On the job training will be given. A high commission and basic salary is offered, together with BUPA and a company car after a qualifying period. PLEASE CALL MR. DUFFIELD ON:

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The successful candidate must have:

1) An overall understanding of the international petroleum markets and the ability to write market reports built up through several years of experience in the oil industry at an international level in the field of oil economics, research and analysis.

2) A strong knowledge of price monitoring of the main international oil markets.

It is essential that candidates applying for this position have a timely approach in the preparation and finalisation of these reports as staff writers and can work under pressure to see that the deadlines are punctually met.

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As part of our expansion programme we are looking to enlarge our management team throughout the UK.

Our managers receive a generous basic salary, bonus, company car, BUPA and pension scheme. In addition we have a unique training programme aimed to develop high flyers to more senior management positions.

How do you qualify for this superb opportunity? You are likely to be aged between 25-35 male or female, and currently running a successful team but feel that you could benefit from joining a progressive expanding, forward looking company.

If you feel you have the self confidence, initiative and enterprise to take advantage of this opportunity, then send your C.V. to Arthur Binham, Recruitment Manager, Save & Prosper Group Limited, Hexagon House, 28 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB.

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01-930 1211 Fax: 01-930 2300 24 hr: 01-925 2101

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Salary indicator £20,000 plus bonus; OTE £30,000. Prestige West End Office.

Please send enclosing full CV to Geoffrey Willis, Managing Director, marked PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

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One of the leading Italian retail fashion companies based in the UK.

We are looking for enthusiastic and professional people with a flair for fashion. Applicants should also have a proven track record in successful fashion retailing.

We now need MANAGERS/MANAGERESSES, ASSISTANT MANAGERS/MANAGERESSES and SALES ASSISTANTS.

We offer a competitive salary and other benefits.

Please apply in writing to:-

STEFANEL (UK) LTD,
15 South Molton St,
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As a result of internal promotion a vacancy has arisen for an experienced Sales Executive possessing a flair for new product development and innovation.

The candidate must be conversant with the various print processes; knowledge of the litho print process would be ideal.

The candidate will be dealing with major advertising agencies, therefore an advertising/POS background would be preferred.

Location is important for this position and we would prefer a candidate residing within a fifty mile radius of Wisbech; consideration would be given to a London based candidate. Assistance with relocation would be considered.

Wisbech offers an attractive employment package with a negotiable salary depending on experience, choice of company car plus excellent career prospects.

Please write or telephone Mrs Liz Jordan, Personnel/Training Co-ordinator, for an application form. Burrows of Wisbech

PO Box 7 Oldfield Lane
Wisbech Cambs PE13 2ZG
Tel: (0493) 64771

TECHNICAL SALES

Batchelton, one of Europe's oldest and largest suppliers of white pigments and fillers to the surface coating, plastic, paper, rubber, fibre pharmaceutical and water treatment industries is expanding its UK operations.

We need a highly motivated technical sales representative to seek out new business and develop existing accounts in the UK. Our ideal candidate will be aged about 30 and:

be educated to degree or HNC level
have a minimum of 5 years sales/technical discipline, particularly in surface coatings - preferably live in the Midlands

Salary dependent upon age and experience. A company car will be provided and there is a company pension and profit sharing scheme. We are prepared to help with relocation expenses, if necessary.

Please write enclosing comprehensive CV in strict confidence to:

Mr W.B. Mayhew, Batchelton Cheshire GM8H, 56 High Street, Etonshire, Kent TN8 5AL

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We have a vacancy for a Price Executive - Consumer Goods at our Head Office in Camberley, whose primary function is to ensure, by negotiation, that products conform to contract specifications.

Suitably qualified applicants should have at least 5 years' commercial background in the fields of consumer goods, traded commodities, packaging, foods and beverages.

Candidates should be formally qualified and hold IFS membership. The ability to handle a broad range of work often under pressure is desirable and previous experience of exporting would be an advantage.

Please send detailed C.V. to:

Mr J.S.D. Reid
Personnel and Training Manager
SGS Inspection Services Limited
217-221 London Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3EY

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SALES MANAGER

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We are an offshore based strategic marketing and sales company and are embarking on a major field sales drive in Southern England. To lead this drive we are seeking an experienced sales professional with the energy and ability to set plans for rapid expansion utilising knowledge of marketing systems and sales programmes. A background in financial services and business to business would be a distinct advantage.

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In control of your own sales team and meeting agreed targets, you will need confidence and flair, enthusiasm, initiative, and the drive and determination to get things done. You should have behind you good sales experience and possess first class communication and organisational skills. Advanced knowledge and experience of recruiting, training, and managing a sales team is essential.

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In return we offer an excellent salary package (c£27,500 + Bonuses) which is enhanced by an expensed quality company car, private medical scheme plus relocation assistance if required.

APPLIANCES

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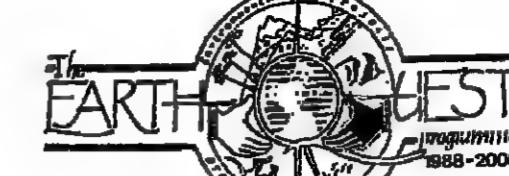
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» Ramada Hotel, Reading Wednesday April 25th 4.30-9.00 «

Considering your next career move, or keen to know more about current market activity? Below are representatives of the business community who will be at the career fair to discuss their recruitment requirements.

ACCOUNTANCY PERSONNEL STAFF WILL BE ON HAND FOR IMPARTIAL CAREER ADVICE



BRITISH BAKERIES



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Hays

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DIRECTOR EASTERN EUROPE AREA (Brussels based)

The International Wool Secretariat (IWS) is a world-wide wool textile marketing organisation. Its principal activities are international promotion of wool products at the consumer level, product development and technical services to industry and quality control of Woolmark-labelled merchandise.

IWS is financed by wool producers in the Southern Hemisphere. It has offices in over 30 countries, including in Eastern Europe. We are looking for a senior executive to direct the operations of the Eastern Europe Area Office of the IWS.

Based in Brussels, you will be responsible for developing and implementing policies in Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R. aimed at increasing the consumption of wool throughout the area. You will be directing a multinational team of marketing and technical specialists and you will be able to call upon a wide range of internal and consultancy services to assist you.

Aged over 40, you will have had extensive first-hand experience of working in Eastern Europe and, in particular, in the Soviet market, preferably gained in the commercial or technical fields. Experience in textiles would be desirable.

You must have first-class knowledge of English and familiarity with Russian. Proficiency in French, German or Italian would be an additional advantage.

You will be professionally qualified in one of the following disciplines: commerce, business management, law or the sciences. In addition, you will have well developed negotiating and organisational skills, an innovative nature and be able to provide effective leadership to highly professional and motivated staff.

Extensive travel, in Europe and world-wide, will be necessary.

This is a senior management position within a well-established, dynamic, international organisation. Consequently, a salary commensurate with the responsibilities of the position plus additional benefits will be offered.

Applications, giving full personal and career details in English, together with a photograph, should be sent, marked "Confidential", to: International Wool Secretariat Attention: Finance and Administration Manager, Eastern Europe Area, Centre International Rogier, 18ème étage, boîte 329, B-1210 Brussels (Belgium). Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.



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An ideal applicant is unlikely to have less than ten years of experience in the Sugar Industry. It goes without saying that the successful candidate will be a high talented individual who combines technical ability with commercial judgement, excellent communication skills and a high level of enthusiasm and commitment.

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We specialise in Japanese business & educational services. We seek a Business Manager to organise & oversee our Company's varied business programmes.

You will ideally be in your 20s & have experience in web major companies.

Experience in training or adult education is desirable, as is a knowledge of Japanese business & particularly Japanese business. Further details on request.

Salary: not less than £21,000, dependent on experience & qualifications.

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The Chairman, University Consultants (Japan) Limited 3, Gower Street, London WC1E 6HA

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Our training is second to none and if you are the kind of person who can strike up conversations easily, who can be both a listener and an advisor, and who thrives on a challenge, then a career as a RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT could be just right for you. No matter what your background happens to be.

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GRADUATES - ACCOUNTANCY CAREERS OPEN DAY

Tuesday 24th April
12 - 6pm

If you are a recent graduate, or are graduating this year (with a 2.2 degree and 8 UCAS points), then take advantage of the unique chance to meet representatives from "Top 30" firms of accountants, who will answer your questions on what as a trainee accountant and prospects after qualifying. This informal reception will take place at Cheltoner James' offices in Reading.

You will also receive a complimentary copy of our "Guide to Careers in Accountancy" and information on interviews and CV writing.

Drinks and a buffet will be available.

To reserve a place and for travel details please telephone:

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Christopher Bruce at: Bernards House, 45 High Street, Buntingford, Herts, LU3 1GD. Telephone 01 767 3327

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Operating Management, Financial Consulting and dynamic, high calibre Executives, of every experience and at every level.

Experience not required at present and drive, determination, energy and enthusiasm are the key requirements.

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An excellent remuneration package will be structured to suit and motivate the right candidates.

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Is required for this role, to be based in Surrey, to deal with the financial and commercial needs of a client base in Europe. Experience in sales, marketing, customer care, client management, financial services, insurance, broking or consulting.

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Chartered Accountants, solicitors, barristers, etc.

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If you have experience in Insolvency, Liquidations, Bankruptcies or Investigations and are considering a move please contact:

LAURA MOSEY on 01-441 2265 or ALICE PEACHELL & PART

Back to the future?

Industrial strife of the scale common in the UK in the 1970s has steadily declined in the last decade. By the end of the 1980s, the "British disease" seemed to have been cured and trade union dragons tamed.

Yet the first suggestions that perhaps things have not changed after all are now being made. There has been an upsurge in the number of strikes, most notably in the engineering sector, and wage award levels have started to set the Government's nerves a-jangle.

George Bain, principal of London Business School and an academic working in the industrial relations field, believes it may be a little early to be certain where the trend is leading, but undoubtedly things will be different. The question is how far changes in industrial-relations practice during the 1980s will last.

Professor Bain says: "Industrial relations in many areas are driven by many things and combinations of things. But you can put these under two broad headings - economics and politics, and often, of course, those are related.

"So when people began saying in the early 1980s that there was some kind of new realism, a permanent shift, and that trade unions had gone out of fashion, I did not believe it. The advent of Mrs Thatcher and monetarist economics together with massive unemployment was what was driving the change then."

And the renewed upsurge in industrial action, Prof Bain argues, is also a direct response to changing circumstances.

"I do not think we will see a return to 1970s-style militancy," he says. "But if we really are

The 1980s were a crucial decade for changing attitudes in industrial relations. But how long-lasting will those changes be and what is the outlook for the 1990s? George Rickerstaffe talks to George Bain (right), principal of London Business School



coming to a period of changing economics and a changing political situation, I predict there will be changes in industrial relations, too.

"Strikes, for example, are determined by the level of prices and real wages. When you get inflation, you get militancy and industrial action; workers seek to protect their standard of living.

The recent higher level of wage awards by companies is a response to this and is, Prof Bain says, one of the few strategies that companies can adopt, especially those affected by skills shortages or demographic influences.

"Strikes are only one part of industrial relations," he says. "If you look back at the 1980s, you can see the growth of closer relations between companies and employees. Companies have taken a more strategic approach to the whole area of human resource management. They have realized that the only sustainable competitive advantage they have is their employees - almost everything else can be quickly copied.

"In the last decade, companies began to invest much more in their people. The interesting ques-

tion is whether, if the economy begins to turn down, they will continue to do that or, as in the past, will the training and human-resource budgets be the first to be cut? There are some signs that companies are cutting."

Prof Bain believes that a not dissimilar change in attitude also swept through trade unions in the 1980s in the way they related to their members. They began to consider them customers or clients rather than "cannon fodder". That is likely to be a permanent change, Prof Bain believes.

"One of the not-so-hidden agendas of the single European market is providing 'level playing fields'. Countries at the higher end of the field, such as the Germans, want things such as high social benefits, high wages and high security of employment to be spread throughout the EC."

That influence from Europe will inevitably increase if political change brings Labour to power in the 1990s. "If that were to happen," Prof Bain says, "the biggest change might be a legislative framework based on a series of positive rights rather than negative immunities."



A return to 1970s-style industrial action: Ambulance workers and supporters march in London

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مكتبة من الأصل

RUGBY UNION

England use their Argentina tour as stepping-stone

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

ENGLAND, who will announce their preliminary World Cup squad next week, will treat their summer tour to Argentina as a substantial development step on the ladder towards success in the 1991 tournament. The national selectors confirmed this intention by announcing yesterday a squad of 29 for the tour — which includes two full internationals — of whom 13 players have yet to be capped.

The size of the squad is three more than the normal number for a short tour, so one of the main exercises will be to ensure that every player is given a decent opportunity during the seven matches in Argentina, the first on July 14 and the last on August 4. Roger Utley, the coach, said: "We wanted to have the maximum number so that we can work in an intense atmosphere. Off-the-field work is at least as important as the fixtures outside the two tests."

Selection was limited by the unavailability of nine internationals, of whom only Andy Mullins, the Harlequins prop, comes into the development category; of that nine, Mark Bailey and Simon Halliday are unlikely to be available for international rugby next season. Bailey, because of limited time, Halliday because of sustained trouble from an ankle injury, which requires treatment over a nine-month

challenge for a World Cup place, though both can expect to be included in the World Cup squad of around 45.

The availability of two uncapped players remains unknown: Sean O'Leary, the Wasps lock who was badly injured in a car accident in Liverpool at the weekend, has not had his invitation withdrawn, but the prospect of his being in a position to accept it must be limited. He has only just come out of the intensive care unit of the Arrowe Park Hospital in the Wirral.

"Our information is that his injuries are not so serious as to prevent him being considered at this time," Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union's technical administrator, said.

"Obviously, we will leave the final decision to Sean and hope that he makes a speedy recovery," Raphael Tsagane, O'Leary's club colleague, died in the same accident and Wasps will stage a minute's silence on Saturday to mark his game with Moseley.

Another Wasps, Dean Ryan, has been named as a flanker but is in New Zealand, where he intends to play club rugby this summer. For that reason, Ryan could not be included in the party to play in Italy on May 1 and, at the moment, has no forwarding address; the RFU is working on the assumption that the prospect of playing for his country will be sufficient to make him change his plans for a month.

BOXING

Protest could result in ban

CLIVE Edwards, the amateur from Manchester, could face disciplinary action for making an unprecedented protest about his points defeat in the ABA semi-final in Blackpool on Tuesday.

Edwards, a light-heavyweight, grabbed the master of ceremony's microphone after losing a majority decision to Joseph McCluskey, of Scotland and astonished the crowd by taking the opportunity to express his disgust at the verdict. Edwards, aged 32, also refused to collect his loser's trophy.

Edwards felt he had done enough to deserve the verdict after forcing McCluskey to take

a standing count in the final round. Officials are expected to look into the incident, and Edwards could be suspended.

• Chris Eubank the middle-weight from Brighton, is to defend his WBC international title against Eduardo Conreras, No. 8, and Paul Rendall, the Wasps prop, would be beneficial. Teague has a grumbling ankle injury and Rendall, at 36 the only remaining playing link with the last England party to visit Argentina in 1981, has reached the stage of pacing himself if he wants to

world title in August. "It's ninety per cent certain Chris will be fighting for a world title this summer," Teague said. "I am in an advanced stage of discussion for Chris to fight Julian Jackson

• LAKE TABOR: George Foreman, the former world heavyweight champion, continued his comeback when he knocked out his fellow American, Mike Johnson, in the fourth round of a scheduled 10-round bout on Tuesday (Reuters reports). Foreman, aged 41, has won 21 successive bouts, mostly against low-ranked opponents, since returning to the ring in March, 1987, after a 10-year absence.

Barry Hearn, the promoter of the bout, said yesterday that the contest would be Eubank's last outing before challenging for a

world title in August. "It's ninety per cent certain Chris will be fighting for a world title this summer," Teague said. "I am in an advanced stage of discussion for Chris to fight Julian Jackson

• LAKE TABOR: George

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As the prize fund for the tennis championships escalates, so does safety expenditure on the centre court

Wimbledon courts the sporting princes

By Andrew Longmore
Tennis Correspondent

OVERALL prize-money for the Wimbledon championships this year will be £3,874,450, an increase of 23 per cent on last year. The winner of the men's singles will pocket a cheque for £230,000, £40,000 more than 1989, while the women's champion will be the richer by £207,000, an increase of £36,000 over last year.

But the increase in prize-money, described by John Curry, the Wimbledon chairman, yesterday as "reflecting the financial success of the tournament", will not just go to the top. No player, from qualifier to finalist, will leave Wimbledon poorer than last year. First-round losers, for example, will receive £3,450, an extra £900 over last year.

In line with other grand slam events, doubles partners will get a bigger share of the prize fund, the men's champions splitting £94,230, nearly £30,000 more than Jarryd and Fitzgerald won last year. In addition, the daily rate paid to all players to help with the cost of travel and accommodation has risen to £80.

The rises keep Wimbledon ahead of the French Open (about £3.3 million) and the Australian, but behind the United States Open in purely financial terms. It also puts the Wimbledon champion well up in the league of sporting princes. The winner of the British Open golf championship this year will receive £85,000 from a prize fund of £825,000.

"Any one who wins Wimbledon is an outstanding player and deserves outstanding rewards," Curry said.

WIMBLEDON PRIZE-MONEY

1989 prize-money by bracket		1990 prize-money by bracket	
TOTAL PRIZE-MONEY: £2,874,450		£3,874,450	
1	£24,250	1	£67,110
2	£26,500	2	£67,110
3	£28,750	3	£67,110
4	£31,000	4	£67,110
5	£33,250	5	£67,110
6	£35,500	6	£67,110
7	£37,750	7	£67,110
8	£39,000	8	£67,110
9	£40,250	9	£67,110
10	£41,500	10	£67,110
11	£42,750	11	£67,110
12	£44,000	12	£67,110
13	£45,250	13	£67,110
14	£46,500	14	£67,110
15	£47,750	15	£67,110
16	£49,000	16	£67,110
17	£50,250	17	£67,110
18	£51,500	18	£67,110
19	£52,750	19	£67,110
20	£54,000	20	£67,110
21	£55,250	21	£67,110
22	£56,500	22	£67,110
23	£57,750	23	£67,110
24	£59,000	24	£67,110
25	£60,250	25	£67,110
26	£61,500	26	£67,110
27	£62,750	27	£67,110
28	£64,000	28	£67,110
29	£65,250	29	£67,110
30	£66,500	30	£67,110
31	£67,750	31	£67,110
32	£69,000	32	£67,110
33	£70,250	33	£67,110
34	£71,500	34	£67,110
35	£72,750	35	£67,110
36	£74,000	36	£67,110
37	£75,250	37	£67,110
38	£76,500	38	£67,110
39	£77,750	39	£67,110
40	£79,000	40	£67,110
41	£80,250	41	£67,110
42	£81,500	42	£67,110
43	£82,750	43	£67,110
44	£84,000	44	£67,110
45	£85,250	45	£67,110
46	£86,500	46	£67,110
47	£87,750	47	£67,110
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59	£102,750	59	£67,110
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74	£121,500	74	£67,110
75	£122,750	75	£67,110
76	£124,000	76	£67,110
77	£125,250	77	£67,110
78	£126,500	78	£67,110
79	£127,750	79	£67,110
80	£129,000	80	£67,110
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82	£131,500	82	£67,110
83	£132,750	83	£67,110
84	£134,000	84	£67,110
85	£135,250	85	£67,110
86	£136,500	86	£67,110
87	£137,750	87	£67,110
88	£139,000	88	£67,110
89	£140,250	89	£67,110
90	£141,500	90	£67,110
91	£142,750	91	£67,110
92	£144,000	92	£67,110
93	£145,250	93	£67,110
94	£146,500	94	£67,110
95	£147,750	95	£67,110
96	£149,000	96	£67,110
97	£150,250	97	£67,110
98	£151,500	98	£67,110
99	£152,750	99	£67,110
100	£154,000	100	£67,110
101	£155,250	101	£67,110
102	£156,500	102	£67,110
103	£157,750	103	£67,110
104	£159,000	104	£67,110
105	£160,250	105	£67,110
106	£161,500	106	£67,110
107	£162,750	107	£67,110
108	£164,000	108	£67,110
109	£165,250	109	£67,110
110	£166,500	110	£67,110
111	£167,750	111	£67,110
112	£169,000	112	£67,110
113	£170,250	113	£67,110
114	£171,500	114	£67,110
115	£172,750	115	£67,110
116	£174,000	116	£67,110
117	£175,250	117	£67,110
118	£176,500	118	£67,110
119	£177,750	119	£67,110
120	£179,000	120	£67,110
121	£180,250	121	£67,110
122	£181,500	122	£67,110
123	£182,750	123	£67,110
124	£184,000	124	£67,110
125	£185,250	125	£67,110
126	£186,500	126	£67,110
127	£187,750	127	£67,110
128	£189,000	128	£67,110
129	£190,250	129	£67,110
130	£191,500	130	£67,110
131	£192,750	131	£67,110
132	£194,000	132	£67,110
133	£195,250	133	£67,110
134	£196,500	134	£67,110
135	£197,750	135	£67,110
136	£199,000	136	£67,110
137	£200,250	137	£67,110
138	£201,500	138	£67,110
139	£202,750	139	£67,110
140	£204,000	140	£67,110
141	£205,250	141	£67,110
142	£206,500	142	£67,110
143	£207,750	143	£67,110
144	£209,000	144	£67,110
145	£210,250	145	£67,110
146	£211,500	146	£67,110
147	£212,750	147	£67,110
148	£214,000	148	£67,110
149	£215,250	149	£67,110
150	£216,500	150	£67,110
151	£217,750	151	£67,110
152	£219,000	152	£67,110
153	£220,250		

